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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the creation of a new Marianas Political Status Commission that will re-examine the CNMI's relationship with the United States?

Yes	33
No	74
Undecided	6
No opinion	3

Sunday, January 19, 2014

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ASIA



Four people are hurt by small explosions in Thailand's capital.

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LIFE & STYLE



Hyatt Regency Saipan serves up authentic Italian spaghetti.

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Mom allegedly let boyfriend sexually abuse her daughter. PAGE 3
No one completes 4-year degree at NMC on time. PAGE 6

A. Samoa starts immigration amnesty

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—American Samoa will be granting amnesty to immigrants living in the U.S. territory illegally.

The immigration amnesty program is intended to help provide a more accurate count of the island's population, which showed a 3.1 percent drop during the 2010 U.S. Census, said Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga. According to census data, the territory's 2010 population was 55,519, a drop of 1,772 from 2000.

See **AMNESTY** on **Page 4**

CNMI gets more in \$1.1 trillion US budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

President Barack Obama signed into law on Friday the U.S. government's \$1.1 trillion spending bill for fiscal year 2014, giving the CNMI more than the fiscal year 2013 sequestration levels, including a \$3.9 million federal funding increase for the Public School System, as well as the ability for the CNMI to retain

its unspent capital improvement project instead of being reprogrammed to another territory.

The 1,582-page measure, which passed Congress last week by overwhelming margins, funds every agency of the federal government, including those that cover the CNMI and the rest of the territories.

It also scales back automatic across-the-board

» **Proposal to give away CNMI unspent CIP money to another territory defeated anew**

See **BUDGET** on **Page 4**



ILLEGAL CIGARETTES

Division of Customs Services officer Antonio Arriola, right, pours confiscated cigarettes into a drum of water, while customs inspector 1 Vicente "Ben" Teregeyo, left, makes sure that the cigarettes are totally soaked in water, outside the Customs seaport storage on Friday. Customs will continue this week the destruction of illegal and over-the-limit cigarettes confiscated from incoming airline passengers, totaling 1,073 cartons or 214,600 cigarette sticks.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

◀ See story on **Page 2**

George Chiu is 2013 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year

BARRIGADA, Guam—George Chiu, executive vice president of Tan Holdings, was named the 2013 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year at the 31st annual *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year gala held Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Chiu, 52, was among 10 nominees on the slate for the annual award program, which recognizes executives who have made outstanding contributions to the local business community and who have raised the bar in his or her field.

Chiu is featured in portraiture on the cover of the *Guam Business Magazine* January-February issue, which was released at the gala concurrently with the announcement of the winner's name.

Chiu joins past Executive of the Year

See **CHIU** on **Page 4**



Chiu

Endangered Mariana crow dies of rare liver cancer

By THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Biologists at the Rota Avian Behavioral Ecology Program, a research program under the University of Washington, reported last month that one of their captive Mariana crows, which can only be found on Guam and Rota, has died of a rare liver cancer.

"I do not know of any other cases in which Mariana crows have been diagnosed with cancer," said RABEP biologist Sarah Faegre.

The dead crow, which biologists on Rota had named "Latte," was found at the Mochong Latte Village with a broken wing

caused by a typhoon that passed close by the southern island in November 2009.

According to Faegre, Latte, at the time, was unable to feed herself or fly and the biologists eventually learned weeks later that her mate was catching food and bringing it back to her. When the biologists decided to assess her broken wing, Latte was transported to Guam for a wing amputation and was never released back into the wild.

After the amputation, Latte was brought back to Rota to be the first Mariana crow to live in captivity. RABEP eventually

See **CROW** on **Page 4**

Biologist Sarah Faegre poses with Latte. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Local

Over 200,000 seized cigarette sticks destroyed

Over 200,000 cigarette sticks in 1,073 cartons seized from incoming airline passengers because they are either illegal or beyond the allowable amount that could be brought into the CNMI are being destroyed by the Division of Customs Services.

Customs director Joe Mafnas said this is only a fraction of the cigarettes that the agency has confiscated the past year.

On Friday, Customs officers started cutting into pieces and then soaking the confiscated cigarettes in water at the Customs seaport where they have been stored for at least a year. Space is running out for storing the seized cigarettes.

Customs officer Antonio Arriola and Customs inspector 1 Vicente "Ben" Teregeyo said that majority of the confiscated cigarettes are from foreign countries such as China, Japan, the Philippines, and Korea.

While some cigarettes are internationally known such as Marlboro, Hope, Philip Morris, Kent, Lucky Strike or Dunhill, some are a bit obscure, among them Yangcheng, Honghe, Lucia, and the like.

Mafnas said they wanted the cigarettes incinerated but that would cost Customs money so they decided to just cut them and soak them in water before turning them in to the Lower

Base transfer station and eventually to the Marpi landfill.

"But we underestimated the time it would take to destroy 1,073 cartons of cigarettes. We would continue the destruction [this] week. Cigarettes are intercepted daily at the airport so you can just imagine the volume of cigarettes that need to be destroyed," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 1,073 cartons contain a total of 214,600 cigarette sticks.

Mafnas said there is a bill they are trying to work on with the Legislature that would immediately impose fines of \$50 to \$2,500 on those bringing in more than the allowed number of cigarettes and those bringing

in illegal cigarettes including those that do not have English labels and do not have "Surgeon General Warning" on them.

This immediate imposition of fine—and possibly allowing more legal cigarettes to be brought in and taxed—could be a way for the CNMI government to generate additional revenues, Mafnas said.

He said some tourists are willing to pay for the extra cigarettes that they bring in but Customs cannot allow that under the law.

Mafnas said a portion of the fines collected could also go into incinerating illegal cigarettes. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

CUC emergency extended anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended anew on Thursday the declaration of emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. pending, among other things, the Legislature's confirmation of three of four appointees to the CUC board of directors. There has not been a functioning CUC board for years now.

The governor's office, as a result of efforts to seek out persons who meet the complex statutory qualifications, submitted nominations to the Legislature and are now pending legislative consent.

"Once the legislature grants its consent and a quorum is established, this will no longer be an area of concern. In the meantime, CUC must continue to function," the governor said in his Executive Order 2014-1.

Another reason for CUC's continued emergency is the approximately \$18 million it is owed by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Mil-

» **Legislature yet to confirm board appointees**

lions more are owed by residential customers.

This comes weeks after CUC filed separate lawsuits to collect utility billings totaling \$18.87 million from CHC, PSS, and the CNMI government.

"Although the Commonwealth economy has recently improved, the improvement is only marginal and the economy and the government's finances are still fragile.

This government strains to meet its obligations," the governor said.

CUC also continues to lack U.S. workers with specialized skills and training for its operations.

It bears substantial obligation to deliver highly technical work in time to the satisfaction of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, pursuant to two sets of consent or "stipulated orders."

The CUC emergency declaration allows the governor to reprogram funds, and suspend procurement laws or rules to address the CUC emergency.

The Jan. 16, 2014 emergency declaration for CUC is in effect for another 30 days.

Ex-convict gets 6-month prison sentence for using illegal drugs

Ryan T. Babauta, an ex-convict who is on federal probation, was slapped last week with a six-month prison sentence after the court revoked his supervised release for using illegal drugs and violating other terms of his probation.

At a revocation hearing Thursday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona directed Babauta to be placed on supervised release for 54 months after completing his prison term.

Babauta was given credit for time served. He was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

During his probation, Babauta will be required to perform 500 hours of community service. He is prohibited from possessing, using, and distributing any controlled substance, and from possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapons.

Within 15 days of his release, he will be required to submit to one drug test and at least two periodic tests after. He will also be required to submit to a maximum of eight drug tests per month.

Babauta is barred from using any alcoholic beverages and will be subject to any testing by the U.S. Probation Office for consumption of alcohol.

Babauta admitted to violations by using a methamphetamine or "ice" and marijuana and failing to appear for drug counseling and testing.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy recommended a six-month prison term and 54 months of supervised release. Court-appointed defense counsel David Banes recommended a minimum imprisonment of six months and then home confinement plus drug counseling and testing.

Federal agents arrested Babauta last Jan. 10 for violating the terms of his supervised release.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola said that Babauta admitted to using "ice" on Nov. 6 and 17, 2013. Babauta also allegedly admitted to using "ice" and marijuana on Dec. 4, 2013.

The defendant, Arriola said, also failed to give advance notice to the probation officer before changing residence.

Babauta also failed to appear for his counseling sessions and random drug testing in December, Arriola said.

In March 2009, Babauta was one of seven prisoners who staged a 14-hour hostage drama at the Department of Corrections in Susupe. At the time, he was serving a prison term for involuntary manslaughter for the killing of a Bangladeshi national in Chalan Kanoa.

In August 1999, the federal court slapped Babauta with a 180-month prison sentence and five years of supervised release, for hostage taking and felon in possession of a firearm. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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Fair distribution of land claim payments sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Upon learning that some landowners were paid anywhere

Mom allegedly let boyfriend sexually abuse her daughter

A mother allegedly allowed her boyfriend to sexually abuse her 17-year-old daughter in front of her inside a motel room in San Jose last year.

Police arrested on Wednesday the suspects—Daisina S. Suda, 40, and Parvej Mohamed Barpery, 43—for conspiracy, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Bail was set at \$100,000 cash each. Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 21 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed to represent Suda, while the court will appoint a private counsel for Barpery. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government at Friday's hearing.

Police detective Isapen Bokuku stated in her report that police began investigating the case on Nov. 26 after the Department of Public Safety received a call about a sexual abuse of a minor that occurred in San Jose, Saipan.

Bokuku said the alleged victim told police on Jan. 8 that Barpery, her mother's boyfriend, sexually abused her in May 2013 when she was just 17 years old inside a room at San Jose Motel.

The teenager alleged that her mother, Suda, her 4-year-old brother, and Barpery were at the motel and that Suda and Barpery had been drinking. Suda allegedly offered beer to the girl but she refused.

The victim said that Suda instructed her to sit on the bed next to Barpery. When she refused, Suda allegedly yelled at her. Barpery then allegedly started sexually abusing the teenager. The alleged victim cried and told Barpery to stop, but her mother yelled again at her to shut up. As the girl struggled, Suda allegedly assisted Barpery by holding her right leg. Due to pain, the girl screamed. Barpery became

between \$100,000 and \$4.4 million for the government's taking of their property for roads, wetlands, and ponding basin while hundreds more have yet

afraid and jumped off her.

Last Jan. 9, police detectives let the girl wear a recording device during her conversation with Suda about the incident.

Bokuku said when the girl confronted Suda why she let Barpery sexually abuse her, her mother stated she could not stop thinking about it. Suda also claimed that she didn't remember what she did because she was drunk at the time.

Bokuku said that in her interview with Suda on Jan. 10, she admitted that she and Barpery brought her daughter and son to the San Jose Motel in August 2013.

Allegedly, Barpery told Suda he wants her daughter to marry him as soon as she turns 18 so his immigration status can be fixed and they can stay together as a family. Suda told Barpery to talk to her daughter. Barpery then told the girl to fix his papers by marrying him.

Suda told police that she does not remember if something happened to her daughter that night because she was drunk.

Suda said she confronted Barpery about the incident, but the latter told her that if she would report the matter to police nobody would believe her because she was drunk at the time and didn't remember anything. Suda stated that Barpery told her that if her daughter reports the incident, he would kill Suda and her children.

This wasn't the first time for the couple to get on the police blotter. Police arrested Suda last New Year's Day for allegedly biting Parbery below the right nipple and chasing him with a knife at their residence in Lower Miha, Garapan. She was temporarily released in that case.

Last September, Suda and Barpery were both arrested after they engaged in a brawl at their house in Garapan. The two pleaded guilty and served prison term. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

to see a penny, some lawmakers are demanding a "fair and proportionate" distribution of land compensation.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) questioned what he described as unfair distribution of funds to compensate landowners, based on a Department of Public Lands list of total claims paid throughout the years totaling almost \$28.5 million.

"Where is the fairness in that? How did the government decide which ones are to be paid first and which ones to be paid later? Would somebody's land taken in 2000 and forward be compensated before those whose lands were taken in the early '90s? These are the questions that need to be answered," Tebuteb said.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan) echoed Tebuteb's sentiments, adding that it is not good for some families to be paid millions while hundreds more are waiting to get paid even a single cent.

"There needs to be proportionate distribution of funds," he added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Inos administration "would like to ensure that there is a just procedure to govern the disbursement of payment owed to landowners."

"However, the issue today is really not the order nor the questionable actions of previous administrations; the issue today is the lack of appropriation or source of funding to make whole with landowners still waiting for payment on their claims," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

While the task at hand now is looking for ways to generate new revenues and set aside money to pay landowners, the government also needs to ensure that there is fair distribu-

tion of funds once those funds are identifies and ready for distribution, said Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), House Ways and Means Committee chairman.

Based on DPL records, the government paid 138 landowners a total of almost \$28.5 million. The highest amount paid was \$4.4 million, followed by over \$2 million and over \$1 million.

At least 28 landowners got paid anywhere between \$100,000 and \$760,000-plus.

The money came from a \$40 million bond that was floated supposedly to pay land claims. The remaining \$11 million went to the construction of an adult prison in Susupe.

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UFO to assist in E-passport appointment

The United Filipino Organization will be helping Filipinos who have no computer access

to apply for E-passport appointment in time for the Philippine Consulate General in Guam's

mobile consular outreach from Feb. 11 to 13.

UFO president Annamae

Adaza said an E-passport filing event will be held on Jan. 26, Sunday, from 9am to 3pm at the

House panel seeks PUC probe on Docomo's \$2 cable TV rate hike

House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) asked the Public Utilities Commission to review Docomo Pacific's \$2 rate increase per basic cable television service customer effective Feb. 1.

Deleon Guerrero said there is no indication that PUC has approved this rate increase pursuant to law.

"Based on our legal counsel's findings, he could not find any provision that would exempt cable television from rate review and approval. Based on 4 CMC 8482, the Public Utilities Commission must establish that Docomo's rates are 'just and reasonable and in conformance with federal law,'" Deleon Guerrero said in a Jan. 14 letter to PUC chair Joseph C. Guerrero.

The House PUTC panel chairman added that "it would appear to be appropriate to require Docomo Pacific to comply with the Public Utilities Commission Act."

As of Friday afternoon, the House committee has yet to receive response from PUC whether it will pursue a review.

In May last year, Docomo Pacific completed its \$129.8-million acquisition of

MCV Broadband.

That was after Japan-based NTT Docomo received approval from federal regulators to push through with the deal.

MCV Broadband is a supplier of cable television, telephony, and high speed Internet services in Commonwealth and Guam. Before Docomo Pacific's acquisition, it was owned by private equity firm Seaport Capital. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

AMNESTY

From Page 1

The decline will reduce federal funding that the territory is entitled to, Moliga said.

"Strong suspicion exists that our population was undercounted because undocumented immigrants did not register for fear of deportation," he said. "I believe the potential loss of federal funds attributed

to population decline poses a greater risk to the territory than the risk of legalizing the status of those persons who are already here in any event."

The territory controls its own immigration and customs, instead of the U.S. government. The amnesty will be possible after the territory makes changes to its immigration law that outlines quotas for the number of immigrants who may enter.

Most people living in American Samoa without legal permission are from neighboring Samoa, an independent country with language, cultural and family ties. Others include immigrants from Fiji, Tonga, the Philippines and Korea. Most overstay an entry permit.

After a registration period from Feb. 18 to March 14, those living in American Samoa without legal permission will be given an opportunity to

legalize their residency status. Only those who have been in the territory illegally before June 30, 2013, are allowed to register, said Deputy Attorney General Mitzie Jessop. They will need documents including a valid passport, photo ID, a birth certificate and any immigration travel documents.

Felons are not eligible.

Moliga announced the program's launch Thursday night on state-run television.

CHIU

From Page 1

recipients, who include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); John M. Borlas of IT&E Overseas Inc. (1984); Philip J. Flores of BankPacific (1985); Doris Flores Brooks of the Office of Public Accountability (1986); Mark V. Pangilinan of M.V. Pangilinan Enterprises Inc. (1987); Allen A. Pickens of Tax-Aide (1988); the late T. Roy Sullivan of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1989); Kurt S. Moylan of Moylan's Insurance (1990); Akira "Mike" Baba of Baba Corp. (1991); Paul M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1992); Antoinette D. Sanford of the

Sanford Technology Group (1993); the late Kenneth T. Jones of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1994); the late Edward M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1995); L. Carl Peterson of Money Resources Inc. (1996); William R. Thompson (1997); John K. Lee of First Hawaiian Bank (1998); the late Henry L. Schnabel of Calvo's Insurance Underwriters (1999); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Manfred H. Pieper of the Conrad Bangkok (2001); Thomas G. Ahilken of Asia Pacific Solutions LLC (2002); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); Joey Crisostomo of Cars Plus LLC, Cycles Plus and Payless Car Rental (2004); Joseph "Jerry" Kramer of Pa-

cific International Inc. (2004); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); Alfred C. Ysrael of Tanota Partners (2006); Lee P. Webber of MDA Guam (2007); Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay of First Hawaiian Bank (2008); Jerry Cho Yee Tan of Tan Holdings Inc. (2009); Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Bank of Guam (2010); Jay R. Shedd of Docomo Pacific (2011); and Jerrold C. Johnson of Hawaiian Rock Products (2012).

The other 2013 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year nominees were Wayne L. Cornell, president and chief executive officer of DZSP 21; Vincent D. "Ben" Cruz, general manager of the Sheraton Lagu-

na Guam Resort; Ron G. Gonzales, vice president of LYON; John A. Limtiaco, president of Pacific Unlimited Inc; N. Oscar Miyashita, senior advisor for Ernst & Young; Kaleo S. Moylan, director of Moylan's Insurance Underwriters; Mary A.Y. Okada, president and CEO of Guam Community College; Torgun E. Smith, executive vice president of Morrico Equipment; and John W. Wade, CEO of Americans Territories for ANZ Guam Inc.

The annual *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year gala is a fundraising event for the Guam chapter of the American Red Cross. This year's event drew approximately 300 people. **(PR)**

BUDGET

From Page 1

spending cuts or "sequester" that impacted major domestic programs in 2013.

"Across the board, funding is up from the FY 2013 sequestration levels, and a number of programs important to the Northern Marianas saw increases. We were also successful at adding legislative language that helps the NMI at several points in the 1,500-page bill, H.R. 3547," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend.

Sablan, who turned 59 yesterday, said PSS alone will receive \$12.7 million for elementary and secondary education programs in school year 2014-2015, a \$3.9-million increase over the current year.

The largest grant comes from Title I, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which aids schools with large populations of children from low-income families, Sa-

blan said.

Appropriators also instructed the Veterans Benefits Administration to increase staff presence in remote areas and singled out the CNMI in particular as an area that needs more attention.

"This recognition caps my multi-year and ongoing work to make sure veterans in the NMI are getting the same level of service as veterans anywhere else in our country," Sablan said.

Funding for the CNMI food stamp program will continue at \$12.148 million in fiscal year 2014.

But Sablan said the Appropriations Committee also included a directive, at his request, for the Agriculture secretary to "provide a report on the feasibility of establishing SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] in the Northern Mariana Islands."

The delegate reiterated that bringing the national food stamp program SNAP to the CNMI could double benefits for needy families.

"This money and directive are separate from the \$33 million SNAP pilot program currently under consideration in the five-year Farm Bill, which would also move the CNMI toward SNAP and raise benefits," the delegate added.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos supports bringing the CNMI under the national SNAP.

Besides increased funding, the CNMI once again gets to keep its unspent CIP money rather than have them reprogrammed to another U.S. territory.

Any territory where the CIP expenditure rate is below 50 percent could lose their money to a territory that spends aggressively.

"The president has included this proposal in his budget for the last three years... We have blocked the president's proposal three years running to protect the tens of millions of dollars already appropriated for the NMI to use for the hospital, schools, power plant improvements or other critical infrastructure. But the real solution—and what

would help people most—is for the CNMI government to spend those dollars," Sablan said.

Head Start will also see a \$1 billion increase nationally, which should restore money the CNMI program lost due to sequestration, Sablan said.

Federal employees, including those in the CNMI, will get a 1 percent pay increase—their first in three years—as will U.S. troops.

Medically retired veterans and survivors' cost-of-living increase has also been restored.

Funding for the Safe Drinking Water Act grant that has brought Saipan near 24-hour water and the Clean Water Act grant will increase, but most importantly the 1.5 percent set aside for insular areas, which the CNMI won beginning in 2010, will continue.

These are but some of the funding for federal programs that the CNMI relies on.

Obama signed the spending bill a day before federal funding was set to run out.

Don Pedro Restaurant Garapan, next to Gene's Barbershop.

She said applicants should bring copies of necessary documents for E-passport appointment. They include passport application and copy of passport.

Adaza said if the applicant has changes in his or her passport, then they should to bring a birth certificate.

UFO will be charging 50 cents a copy for photocopying services to defray the organization's expenses in buying paper and ink.

"For those who send via email already, then you don't have to show up on that day to avoid mess up with the appointment process. A reminder

to all who send their own appointment make sure you put on the 'Subject: Applicant's Name (your own name) and nothing else so it will be received properly and just wait for 2-3 days for acknowledgement. There's always an auto reply if you put on the 'Subject: E-passport application.' We all need to follow instructions which was stated in the PCG's press release," added Adaza.

For more details on the E-passport event of UFO, text or call Adaza at 483-5237, UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Nel Atalig for the location at 233-3854. **(Mark Rabago)**

Attorney for Guam murder suspect argues case

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—

The case against a 31-year-old Guam man who is charged in the death of a toddler client doesn't add up, his attorney said.

John Jesse Castro faces charges of aggravated murder and assault. Bail is set at \$1 million.

His attorney, Curtis Van de Veld, said there is no probable cause to indicate that Castro was responsible for the death of the 23-month-old Yigo girl, *Pacific Daily News* reported Thursday.

Van de Veld said the autopsy found contusions on the back of the child's head that occurred several days before the victim was brought to the hospital Jan. 11. The child was left in Castro's care the night of Jan. 10. Van de Veld said the complaint didn't say when other injuries on the child, such as a ruptured intestine, occurred.

In a court proceeding Wednesday, assistant attorney general Jesse Nasis said "several days" referred to the period before the autopsy was per-

formed Monday.

Van de Veld said he plans to request the autopsy report and all other evidence in the possession of prosecutors. As it stands, however, the evidence doesn't point to his client being responsible, he said.

Van de Veld's objection was overruled by Magistrate Judge Alberto Tolentino.

The defense attorney said he plans to raise the issue again at an upcoming bail hearing before another judge.

The \$1 million cash bail was requested by Nasis.

"This case involved the death of a 23-month-old baby under extremely distressing circumstances," he said.

Van de Veld said the bail request was grandstanding.

"A man who has no money can't even afford a \$10,000 cash bail," he said. "Asking for \$1 million is absurd."

Tolentino agreed with the prosecutor's request. The judge said the bail takes into consideration the severity of the charges.

CROW

From Page 1

brought Latte to schools around the island to raise awareness about endangered species in the CNMI.

While Latte was in captivity, biologists put four different fledging Mariana crows under her care—two of which will be released into the wild this year.

"Because of Latte's foster care the birds learned how to behave as normal, wild crows and are adjusting well to the wild," Faegre said.

She said that cancer in young birds is extremely rare and that her research team thinks that Latte may have been an older bird and at least 6 years old when she died. Her mate—the one that helped keep her alive in 2009—was 11 years old when Latte was captured. The biologists believe that if Latte was the same age as her mate, she should be 15 years old. The oldest Mariana crow is 18 years old.

Researchers and biologists are unaware of how Latte got cancer, saying no other diseases have been identified in Mariana crows.

"It is not currently believed that disease is a cause of decline for the species," Faegre noted.

The current crow population on Rota has declined by more than 50 percent since 1998. About 140 birds are estimated to be left on the island.

A variety of factors have affected the crow population in the past including introduced predators, habitat loss, and direct shooting. Data collected by RABEP in the past four years on radio-tagged crows has found that feral cat predation is a main cause of death for wild crows.

Faegre said the organization's current work is to mitigate known threats to the population and continue monitoring whether there are other problems that need to be addressed.

"Another important goal is to work with the public, both to educate them about the Mariana crow and to help find solutions to problems that can be beneficial to local people as well as the crow."

The RABEP program is run by Dr. Renee Ha at the University of Washington. There are currently seven biologists conducting research and studying the bird species on Rota.

Guerrero re-elected anew to BOE top post

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Herman T. Guerrero was chosen anew by his peers to take the helm of the State Board of Education in the Commonwealth.

This year marks Guerrero's fourth time to lead the board and his 13th year of continuously serving the Public School System.

In brief remarks, he expressed gratitude to his fellow members for continuously entrusting him with their vote of confidence.

Lucy Blanco-Maratita, who was elected vice chair, and Janice Tenorio, who was chosen as the body's secretary and treasurer, also got the unanimous vote of their peers.

The board elects a new set of officers each year. Other voting members of the board are Marylou Ada and Denise Tanya King.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Friday, Guerrero reaffirmed his commitment to fulfill the role expected of him as a BOE member.

Under his new leadership term, Guerrero said that finding more funds for school programs remain on top of his priority list. He also vowed to work collaboratively with the education commissioner, the Legislature and the Executive Branch.

Guerrero acknowledged that BOE and PSS remain challenged by funding issues this school year as a result of competing interests for local funds.

"But I hope that our leaders this time around understand that they need to have stronger commitment in educating kids of the Commonwealth," he added.

Public schools made great strides last year. Among the significant achievements in 2013 is PSS' accreditation with the North Central Association and the creation of an evaluation mechanism for the COE and



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the CNMI Board of Education gather for a group photo after their election Friday. From left are Janice Tenorio, vice chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita, re-elected chair Herman T. Guerrero, Marylou Ada, Denise Tanya King, and student representative Michelle Muña. Not in photo is private school representative Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

staff through board policies.

PSS—at the behest of BOE—also established the leadership institute to give in-house employees an opportunity to become school administrators. Also mentioned is the compliance of many of the audit findings for PSS.

The historic Pacific Education Conference, Guerrero said, was also notable. The success of PSS in securing additional federal monies for schoolchildren and the academic success of students cannot be ignored.

"These and other remarkable things that happened for our school system are indications that we're moving on the right direction," said Guerrero.

Rob suspect surrenders to DPS

Manuel Jones Villagomez, a man being hunted by police for his alleged participation in a robbery case, surrendered to the Department of Public Safety on Friday morning.

DPS spokesman Travis Hurst said Villagomez turned himself in at DPS in Susupe and was subsequently brought to the Department of Corrections.

Hurst thanked the media for publishing the arrest warrant information on Friday.

Villagomez is expected to be taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing today, Monday.

On Thursday, Hurst released a news release seeking the public's help on the whereabouts of Villagomez as police could not serve him the arrest warrant issued by the Superior Court.

In that release, Hurst said detectives and police officers from

DPS Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation and the Commonwealth State Police have not been able to capture Villagomez pursuant to the arrest warrant.

Hurst said the Superior Court issued the warrant against Villagomez on charges of robbery, conspiracy, and disturbing the peace.

The DPS police spokesman did not release more details about the case.



Villagomez

Saipan Tribune, however, learned that the incident was about a purse snatching case in Garapan last Dec. 3. The victims were tourists—man and a woman.

Villagomez was arrested early last week for domestic violence and appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio. The defendant was then temporarily released after he posted bail. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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CNMI Water Task Force IFB14-GOV-039



Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **December 23, 2013**.

All questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM, **January 3, 2014** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, at facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Lease of Warehouse**", **IFB14-GOV-039**. An original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 P.M. , local time, on January 22, 2014** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC 70-30.3). Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-205: Competitive Sealed Bidding. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMPARED TO NATIONAL COURSE COMPLETION DATA:

No one completes 4-yr degree at NMC on time

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officials of the Northern Marianas College disclosed Friday that too few of its students graduate on time. Only 8 percent of students taking up an associate degree finish within two years while none of its students complete the four-year degree on time.

This was based on the latest data presented to the board Friday.

NMC has only one four-year degree program, the School of Education. Most of its courses are for associate degree, or two-year programs.

At the national level, 12 percent of students pursuing two-year degrees graduate on time; 22 percent complete the two-year degree in three years; while 28 percent complete the degree in four years.

According to Barbara Merfalen, NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services, only 8 percent of students under two-year degree programs complete the course within two years; 18 percent of students graduate in three years; 21 percent complete the degree in four years; 22 percent graduate in five years; and 23 percent graduate after six years.

For NMC's only four-year

degree program, no student has completed the degree within four years. At the national level, 31 percent of students finish their four-year degrees within four years; 56 percent complete the degree in six years; and 59 percent after eight years.

Merfalen, along with her team, reported Friday that 20 percent of NMC students taking a four-year degree graduate after six years, and 24 percent complete it in eight years.

Merfalen said that NMC is actually in the "neighborhood" compared with the national data on the two-year degree record. But she described the four-year degree numbers as "a glaring concern" that must be addressed if NMC wants to continue to receive federal financial assistance for its students.

According to NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, the college must improve its "completion and retention" rates because that data would be used for how federal dollars will be allocated for individual institutions.

"What we see down the road is that the college would ultimately be ranked and depending on the institution's data on these areas (completion and retention), they will decide the federal funding allocation. Once that happen, we want to make sure that CNMI students

are able to receive the increase in those federal aids," Hart said Friday.

Merfalen admitted that NMC's completion rates are dismal at this time but the record would be an important baseline for the college to plan initiatives and programs that would boost completion data.

"I am excited about this, I am for it. Our number may be dismal now, but this could be a baseline for us ... and we will move from there," said Merfalen.

Clear factors

According to NMC officials, several factors affect course and college completion rates. One is placement at the remedial level. It was disclosed that 90 percent of incoming students place in the remedial level in Math and English courses.

Other factors are the lack of regular class attendance, work and personal related absences, challenging program requirements, limited and inconsistent academic advising, poor financial planning, the transition from high school to college, and the social and cultural realities of life in the community.

Merfalen said they will have a series of meetings to discuss the data and institutional actions that may be initiated.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TRUCKS WITH DUMP BODIES RFP14-GOV-042

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude Hofschneider, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals according to the requirements of N.M.I.A.C. § 70-30.3-210 from qualified vendors to provide dump trucks for use on the Islands of Tinian and Rota. Proposals are to include costs associated with: equipment; training; and delivery to the Islands of Tinian and Rota as identified in the specifications. Trucks proposed must be similar to type identified in the scope of work. The Commonwealth is relying on the expertise of vendors in the selection of most appropriate equipment for use in the proposed operations. The specific pieces of equipment sought are two medium duty dump trucks with a 5-7 cu yard medium duty dump body & hoist. Although equipment is to be used primarily in hauling landfill cover, they will also be used in assorted activities of municipal operations, thus the Commonwealth is seeking flexibility in the type of equipment. Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:

Element	Points
Price and appropriateness of proposed equipment;	50 points
Dealer experience and ability to meet needs of the Islands of Tinian and Rota.	50 points

All proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination as identified in NMIAC § 70-30.3-245 ("Responsibility Determination") which will evaluate whether the vendor has experience and resources for the required financing, delivery, and warranty. Proposals from parties who fail to meet the requirements of the Responsibility Determination will not be considered. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Procurement & Supply. Proposal packets will be available on January 6, 2014 (ChST) at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). Proposals must pay particular attention to the preferred identified equipment specification and use this as a guide in submission of proposals. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 17, 2014 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408). Prospective bidders bear responsibility for proper transmission and receipt of submitted questions.

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be in a sealed envelope or container and marked "RFP14-GOV-042 Dump Truck Proposal" on the exterior and include an original and four copies. Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday February 7, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact Carl Castro at the Office of Capital Improvement (670) 664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES RFQ14-GOV-028



Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 pm, January 17, 2014 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project is made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. All element of the construction process shall meet standards of EDA. The EDA grant is matched by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM, (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014**.

The SOQ shall be marked "**Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project, RFQ14-GOV-028**". For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014**. Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 5, 2014 AND** must be received no later than **February 14, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

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Fingerprints lead to arrest of alleged HK fugitive

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federals agents arrested an alleged Hong Kong fugitive who reportedly used a different identity when he tried to enter Saipan last Thursday.

Wei Zeng was taken to U.S. District Court for the NMI Friday morning after the U.S. government filed a complaint charging him with making a false statement to a federal agency.

According to Michael D. Lansangan, special agent with Homeland Security Investigations of the Department of Homeland Security, Zeng lied to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when he declared on his form I-736 that he has not previously applied for a U.S. immigrant or non-immigrant visa.

USCBP Form I-736 is a document that certain foreign-born, non-immigrant, non-visa holders visiting Guam or the CNMI must complete prior to entry. It includes basic questions, such as whether the foreign-born national had ever before applied for a U.S. immigrant/non-immigrant visa, or whether the foreign-born national had ever been arrested for any offense or crime.

Zeng's detention hearing is on Jan. 22 at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona told Zeng that he has the right for the consulate of his country to be notified of his arrest. Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton stated that the U.S. government is now working on notifying the China Consulate Office of Zeng's arrest.

Manglona remanded the suspect into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Special agent Lansangan stated in his affidavit that he and other HIS Saipan agents learned from USCBP officials on Thursday that a Chinese national, Zeng, had arrived on Saipan from Shanghai, China, and sought admission under the conditional parole program.

Zeng allegedly presented to the USCBP officer a People's Republic of China passport that identified him as Zhiqian Liu and Feb. 5, 1963, as his date of birth. The passport further indicated that Liu was born in Sichuan Province, PROC. Zeng presented an I-94 arrival/departure card and signed a I-736 form, both in the name Zhiqian Liu.

During Zheng's primary inspection, the USCBP officer collected Zeng's fingerprints.

Lansangan said an electronic search or comparison of Zeng's fingerprints yielded a biometrics match to a Hong Kong national named Wei Zeng with Dec. 26, 1962, as date of birth.

Lansangan said Zeng also appeared to have been the subject of a U.S. visa revocation by the U.S. State Department because he was a fugitive in Hong Kong.

During secondary inspection, USCBP officers discovered that Zeng also appeared to be a match to the subject of an active international police red notice.

Lansangan said the Interpol notice, which was published on Oct. 21, 2011, indicated that Zeng was a wanted fugitive from Hong Kong, and the subject of an arrest warrant or judicial decision from Hong Kong for bribery and conspiracy.

USCBP officials then contacted Interpol authorities, and were informed that Zeng's extradition would not be warranted at that time. Interpol authorities asked USCBP offi-

cials to inform them of Zeng's subsequent travel records and itinerary.

USCBP officials indicated that Zeng would be refused entry into Saipan and returned to China on the next available Sichuan Airlines flight on Jan. 17, 2014.

Upon receiving information about Zeng from USCBP officials, Lansangan said he himself did additional record checks.

From computerized database checks, Lansangan said he learned that Zeng is a former B1/B2 non-immigrant U.S. visitor visa holder, and possibly a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident who had given up his citizenship in 2008.

He also saw records of prior entries by Zeng through various U.S. ports from 2009 through 2010 using B1/B2 and permanent resident U.S. visas.

Lansangan said he and another special agent attempted to interview Zeng at the airport.

Lansangan said Zeng iden-

tified himself as Zhiqian Liu and invoked his right to an attorney and declined to answer any questions.

Lansangan said they ended the interview and later obtained and reviewed a copy of the I-736 form that Zeng had presented to the USCBP officer.

Lansangan said he observed that on question No. 8 of the form I-736, which reads "Have you applied for an immigrant or non-immigrant U.S. visa before?", Zeng seemed to have marked "No" on his own form.

Lansangan said a USCBP officer confirmed that question 8 on Zeng's form I-736 indeed referred to prior applications for U.S. visas, and further confirmed that Zeng had marked "No" on his form.

Lansangan said computerized database records show that Zeng previously applied for and was granted both immigrant and non-immigrant U.S. visa applications in that name and identity.

Water outage in Koblerville tomorrow

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform residents of Koblerville along Tinaktak Drive south of As Gonno Road that an 8-hour water outage is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, from 9am to 5pm.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, to replace an existing non-working gate valve on As Gonno Road. This project is part of the Koblerville Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The water outage will affect residents living along Tinaktak

Road south of As Gonno Road in the Koblerville village.

CUC's operations team and AIC Marianas will be working hard to return service to our customers in these affected areas as soon as possible. Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. Direct inquiries to project manager Yvonne Cabrera, at (670) 253-7025 through 30. (CUC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 20, 2006

'Babauta hired 3 new employees each week'

The Babauta administration hired at least three new government employees each week during its four-year term, according to the Office of Personnel Management. OPM records showed that a total of 640 limited term appointments were made while former Gov. Juan N. Babauta was in office. During this period, an austerity measure was in effect, providing that all new hires be placed on limited term appointments and banning the conversion of limited term appointments to permanent status. Each of these appointments is being reviewed for possible conversion to permanent civil service status pursuant to Directive 245. Babauta issued the directive six weeks before he left office.

PSS: They'll get their money back

The Public School System promised yesterday that the money that was inadvertently deducted from their employees' payroll accounts would be paid back. PSS director of finance Richard Waldo apologized for all the trouble, which was traced to a computer glitch, and said he only learned of the faulty deductions yesterday morning after arriving at his office. Waldo said that, for some unknown reason, the computer program truncated the date ranges in the "Chapter 7" accounting of payroll. "It screwed up and changed the dates in the program," he said. Waldo said his office would request acting Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to give them back the money so they could return the sum to the bank accounts of affected employees.

January 20, 2007

Tax rebates class suit filed

A class action lawsuit was filed yesterday in federal court against the CNMI government for its alleged failure to pay over \$24 million in tax rebates from 2002 to 2005. Amanda Armstrong, Hui Min Zhao, Xiu Zhen Qi, Mei Lian Chen, Edward Lieberman, and 24 unnamed co-plaintiffs sued the government through its Department of Finance. Attorney Alexis Fallon alleged that her clients bring the court action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated who paid income taxes in the CNMI and who have been denied payment and return of their rebates, accrued interest and or a meaningful offset against present and future tax liabilities. The plaintiffs asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that the rebates are subject to interest and that the government is obligated to pay such interest.

Immigration seeks emergency hiring

The Division of Immigration is now working with the Office of Personnel Management to hire more people to address the manpower shortage at the Saipan International Airport. Immigration director Melvin Grey disclosed the emergency hiring plan when Saipan Tribune sought his comments about reported delays in the immigration processing of passengers arriving at the Saipan airport. Grey said the division is understaffed, resulting in the delay. He said they even assigned people from the processing section to go to the airport because of the manpower shortage.

January 20, 2008

Road repairs, water deliveries suspended

Effective since Friday, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela suspended the delivery of public services on the island due to the lack of money to buy fuel for his office's vehicles. Public services affected include all water truck deliveries, all quarry operations and coral deliveries, all road repairs, junk car removal, site preparations for wakes and funerals, village cleanups, and beautification projects. In a statement issued Friday, Tudela said that the payment for Mobil Oil Marianas has been slow and was just completed Friday by the Department of Finance.

Garment board to initiate distribution of \$2M

The Garment Oversight Board chaired by former judge Timothy H. Bellas will conduct a five-phase plan to distribute over \$2 million that remains in the class lawsuit against the garment industry. Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* that GOB's proposed plan was approved by U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson during a recent hearing. Bellas said Munson approved the plan but not as to the facts of the submission since when he submitted it to the court they didn't know if the judge will extend the board's term.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 501370 • SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-3751/68 Fax: (670) 664-3760

Head Start Policy Council Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Friday, January 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., Oleai Head Start Resource Center, Oleai, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Quorum
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Adoption of Minutes of December 13, 2013
- II. Public Comments
- III. Communication
 1. From the State Board of Education
 2. From the Office of Head Start
- IV. Monthly Reports
 1. Director
 2. Child Outcomes
 3. Finance Director
 4. Center Representatives
- V. Old Business
 1. Selection of Rota Community Representative
 2. Clarification of Representation of Community Representatives
- VI. New Business
 1. MOA PSS Head Start Program and DPH Dental
 2. Parent Advisory Council Representative
 3. Approval of Fencing for Tanapag Head Start
 4. Approval of Self Assessment Timeline and Plans
 5. Approval of Community Assessment Timeline and Plans
 6. Recommendation and Approval to Hire Substitute Teachers and Teacher Aide
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters
- VIII. Executive Session¹
- IX. Next Meeting
- X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Mrs. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org, several days notice is required.

/s/ Roy Ada
Chairperson

¹Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



INVITATION FOR BID MVA-IFB-14-2310

For: Purchase of Vehicles for the Marianas Visitors Authority

Closing Date: **January 23, 2014**

Time: **3:00 P.M.**

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority
San Jose Professional Building
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
Acting Chairman of the Board

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-14-2311

For: Tourist Exit Survey Services for the Marianas Visitors Authority

Closing Date: **January 30, 2014**

Time: **3:00 P.M.**

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority
San Jose Professional Building
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
Acting Chairman of the Board

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 14-001

Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-001 Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 10, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-007

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION FOR WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 7, 2014** to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 30, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-007, Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 5, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water-Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than **February 10, 2014**.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-008

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of approximately 18,000,000 US gallons annually of **Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (Grade No. 2-D S15)** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" ASTM D975-11 or the latest revision.

The RFP package may be obtained upon completion of registration and receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **January 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-008, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **January 21, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email charles.warren@cucgov.org and Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-009

Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop CUC's Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-range plan that will select the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side, following a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. This project will also include the design and development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for total system power supply, the design and implementation of financial models to be used for comparing both energy supply and renewable power integration options, along with Independent Evaluator (IE) services to develop and administer third-party, technical and financial review of received energy supply proposals, for the purposes of advising the CUC during the energy supply proposal selection process.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on **January 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**, at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-009, Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 12, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The truth about lying in politics

Lying by and about politicians is a regrettable and probably permanent feature of American democracy. But should it also be a criminal offense? The Supreme Court has agreed to hear an argument by an antiabortion group challenging an Ohio law that criminalizes false statements about candidates for public office. The justices should allow the group's claim to proceed. Using criminal law to police truth in political debate is unnecessary and invites abuse.

The Ohio law prohibits false statements about a candidate if they are made knowingly or with reckless disregard of whether they might be false. If the Ohio Elections Commission decides the law was violated, it "shall refer" the matter to prosecutors.

During the 2010 election campaign, the Susan B. Anthony List, an antiabortion political action committee, planned to post an ad on billboards accusing then-Rep. Steven Driehaus, D-Ohio, of voting "for taxpayer-funded abortion" when he supported the Affordable Care Act. Driehaus filed a complaint with the commission under the false statement law, and fearing legal reprisals, the advertising company that owned the billboard space refused to post the ad.

The Susan B. Anthony List tried to challenge the constitutionality of the law, but the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals said that no "case or controversy" existed because the elections commission hadn't made a final decision on Driehaus' complaint and because the group couldn't establish that it faced an "imminent threat" of prosecution.

The Supreme Court should allow the challenge to go forward. Citizens who believe a law violates their First Amendment rights ought to be able to make that case even if they aren't in immediate danger of being prosecuted. And the Ohio law is constitutionally suspect, especially after a 2012 decision in which the Supreme Court struck down a law making it a crime to falsely claim to have received military honors.

However well intended, laws criminalizing false statements about candidates could have the unintended effect of stifling truthful political speech. As the Supreme Court has observed: "Erroneous statement is inevitable in free debate, and ... it must be protected if the freedoms of expression are to have the breathing space that they need ... to survive." There is also a danger that such laws will be invoked for partisan purposes or in cases in which the "false" statement is a matter of interpretation.

Claims by and about candidates are best tested in the back-and-forth of a political campaign, in journalistic fact-checking and, if worse comes to worst, in a civil libel trial, not in a criminal trial.

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Mandela and Malala's forgiveness

I used his honorific tribal title when I wrote of "Madiba" the week South Africa decided to hold a 10-day December wake for Xhosa *Rolihlahla*, the "troublemaker" who radically transformed his nation from apartheid. We use "Mandela" in our title today for it is by that name that he is better known around the world.

It was while jailed for 27 years that the social activist latched on to the power of "forgiveness." Even before he was let out of jail, Mandela was already a free, forgiving man. He also managed to free his captors and jailers from inherited social discrimination.

Desmond Tutu, erstwhile Anglican Bishop, nominated last year a forgiving person for the 2013 International Children's Peace Prize, this time a teenager of Muslim Pashtun descent from Pakistan's Swat Valley, who at 11 said at a Peshawar press conference, "How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?" For that and her subsequent crusade, she was gunned down to the edge of her breath.

Named *Malala* (grief-stricken) after a Pashtun woman poet from southern Afghanistan, she survived an October 2012 assassination to capture the world's attention. She is addressing the plight of many girls around the world denied their right to an education as a consequence of ingrained social prejudice and discrimination.

She addressed the United Nations in July 2013 on her 16th birthday in what is now known as "Malala Day." She focused once more on access to education worldwide for children, male and female. She said, "The terrorists thought they would change my aims and stop my ambitions, but nothing changed in my life except this: weakness, fear, and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage was born. ... I am not against anyone, neither am I here to speak in terms of personal revenge against the Taliban or any other terrorist group. I'm here to speak up for the right of education for every child. I want education for the sons and daughters of the Taliban and all terrorists and extremists."

In presenting a youth resolution to the august body, she added: "Malala Day is not my day. Today is the day of every woman, every boy and every girl who have raised their voice for their rights." And she did not mean just wearing or not wearing the burqa in public!

Let's get two words clarified: Pashtun and Taliban.

Pashtun is the tribal confederation that straddles Afghanistan east and Pakistan west, the predominant ethnic leadership in both countries. Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai is a Pashtun. So are most Taliban. Malala is a Pakistani Pashtun. The Pashtuns played off Russia and Great Britain in "the Game" that pitted one empire against the other when they competed to control the "Stans of central Asia."

"Taliban" is plural of the Pashto word "talib," an Arabic loan

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



word that means "a student," though news media often use the term for an individual. "Taliban" means "students of Islamic knowledge" promoting a strict adherence to Islam's Sharia.

Malala's family name is the common Pashtun Yousafzai, "son of Joseph," which leans toward a Semitic lineage from the Levant. Its popularity is akin to having Kim as a family name in Korea. The Pashtuns trace their ancestry back to Israel's lost tribes, later converting to Christianity and Islam.

"Forgiveness" is how we link Mandela and Malala as figures of emulation. Mandela's graciousness that marked his later years was a function of age and choice, different from his earlier activism. In the same vein, some attribute a certain unsettling assertiveness, if not abrasiveness, in young Malala as she becomes the most well-known teenager in our time. *Dawn*, Pakistan's *NYT-Guardian*-type publication, rated Malala's October 2013 autobiography, *I am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban*, with a below "A" rating, with one of the op-ed writers citing in-your-face language and attitude.

As it is with Mandela, Malala has diehard detractors. What is incontestable is their attitude toward the past to which we allude to the word "forgiveness" as a relevant point. I do not mean the religious sentiment of turning the other cheek, though both have shown they could. I mean that at any point in history, the past is done! There is no turning back, nor is it possible even to revisit previous events. The issue is how we relate to the past in the present, and how we utilize it to empower us to create a new future. "Forgiven" is "given fore"; the past is rendered in full service to the future!

Malala takes what the Taliban stands for, particularly its opposition to female education, sadly echoed in similar forms around the world, and show similar passion to ask dramatically: Is this how we want the future of our children to continue? A response is required.

Mandela said the same of "apartheid" and flung his whole being into the barbwires of history. The world paid attention. Malala is doing the same on education, and the right of everyone, not just the privileged, to have one. It would be a shame if we do not heed the teenager's call.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Expanding NMI's horizon

The bloated economic gangrene has turned into a painful and serious threat to life among the simple folks in the villages. The pile of increases only make the cost of living even harder to deal with. It need not be this way. Let's look beyond our fatal comfort zones for better answers.

Risking redundancy on alternative energy, it remains the perfect door to slam open opportunities for anchor investments. It's the only chance to rein in proven alternative energy technology to tame the high cost of utilities Marianas-wide. The utility agency could only do maintenance work to keep the old power plant working. The issue of change to something more constructive and positive requires decisive political answer.

There are two beneficiaries when this is done: 1). Affordable and reliable power generation for the folks in the villages. 2). Private industries would revive business expansion and investments. Most importantly, it sets the CNMI on the sturdy road to economic recovery and stability.

There are ways to domesticating the beast. A story on wind power printed in the *Dallas Business Journal* offers an interesting insight into the work of an entrepreneur to harness wind for power generation.

John Billingsley Jr. spent his youth picking cotton in fields just south of Lubbock, where West Texas winds of up to 20 or 30 mph would slap at his face like an open hand.

"Growing up out there, driving a tractor many, many years right in the middle of that wind, it was a big headache," the 74-year-old Billingsley said. But six decades later, he hopes that the wind will make it all up to him.

The chairman and CEO of Tri Global Energy, a Dallas-based wind-farm company, Billingsley's on the verge of harnessing wind power and bringing it to North Texas under an untested model.

World's largest wind farm

Tri Global has leased more than 640,000 acres throughout the Texas Panhandle, with plans to build 16 wind farms totaling 6,600 megawatts over the next decade. That's enough to power 1.9 million homes annually. Just one of those projects, the 122,000-acre Hale Community Energy Wind Farm, is already poised to become the world's largest, which will produce 1,100 megawatts once completed.

When he calls his wind farms community-based projects, he really means community-based. For example, 340 local landowners, mostly farmers, have bought into Billingsley's vision of the huge Hale County farm as investors. And each wind farm has a board of

directors that looks like a small-town Kiwanis Club, peopled with farmers, doctors, lawyers, university professors, and auctioneers.

In the big-money world of Texas energy, it's an audacious bet by a good-humored straight shooter with the soul of an old-fashioned wildcatter.

Known for making a gainful go at ventures as varied as buying a bank and massaging mineral rights, Billingsley may finally succeed where others have fallen with a thud: transforming wind power from a money-sucking novelty into more than just a stable, viable power source, but into a profitable, growing part of the state's energy portfolio.

"Traditionally, community wind was in the small projects, 20 megawatts," said Larry Flowers, deputy director of the American Wind Energy Association. "Tri Global is coming from the top down in looking at much larger projects and providing opportunities for local and community folks to participate financially in those projects. That's the piece I think that is exciting."

From all indications, his plan seems to be working—even without a single blade spinning. For renewable energy in oil-rich Texas, that's saying something.

Tri Global expects 2014 to be a breakout year with projected revenue of more than \$19 million. The company brought in \$4.9 million in 2013 and \$3.7 million in 2012. Billingsley said he's turning a profit, but wouldn't disclose numbers.

The first of what Billingsley hopes will be many turbines would be erected this month in Crosby County. Later this year, construction is slated to start on the 1,100-megawatt Hale Community Energy Wind Farm, the one that will propel Tri Global into the record books.

"I'd say it's some of the best wind in the world," said Jeff Clark, executive director of The Wind Coalition in Austin. "What Tri Global has done is they've tried to find a way to get involved with the landowner. Spreading the benefit to more people is always good."

Wind is the latest in Billingsley's long line of successful endeavors. The Texas Tech grad has worked as a certified public accountant and founded his own CPA firm that later merged with Arthur Young. He owned a bank in Midland and a prefab building manufacturing plant in Arlington. After all that, the entrepreneur has no intention of slowing down. "It's basically my life," he added.

CFO Henry "Hank" Schopfer said Billingsley is remarkable; his work ethic is "as though he never left the farm he grew up on in West Texas," Schopfer said. "His business success is attributable to his strong vision, the ability to see into the future and his analytical ability, combined with his willingness to put his own

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

money at risk."

In Texas, the rise of wind power has coincided with an increase in the construction of quick-start natural gas plants, which can respond quickly when needed.

"Wind can really keep costs down and gas can keep the reliability up. And together, you're able to build a hybrid system that is reliable and cost-effective," Clark said.

At least some people believe that.

To show its commitment to alternate fuels, the federal government offers a production tax credit for wind farms. Tri Global has seven projects, totaling 1,520 megawatts, that qualified for the credit, which pays producers \$23 per megawatt hour.

Some states even offer an additional wind credit on top of that. But Texas, the top wind-producing state in the country, doesn't. With its powerful oil, coal and natural gas interests, such a credit has become a hot political target for conservative groups and investors, including the billionaire Koch brothers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Who do you care for?

If e-gaming is casino, SO WHAT! At least e-gaming was designed to provide night entertainment for tourists, especially for those coming from mainland China, *and more importantly*, to provide much needed revenue to pay the pension for over 3,000 retirees and their children and for payment of amounts owed to several thousand more defined benefit members who terminated their membership in the Defined Benefit Plan pursuant to PL 17-82, as amended.

To you who paid for the ads without identifying yourself, what have you done to enhance tourism? How much have you paid to the CNMI treasury to help restore the 25-percent pension cut to retirees and their families? What have you done to improve the lives of the people of Saipan?

If you are a company that is teetering on bankruptcy, your self-serving ad is not going anywhere because e-gaming is much too important to the majority of retirees who depend on their pension for their livelihood.

Instead of engaging in fear-mongering and self-serving nonsense to save your failing business, do something positive and generate the millions of dollars needed to restore the 25-percent pension cut and extend the life of the pension fund. Then and only then can you be a credible advocate for the *over* 3,000 families on Saipan. E-gaming on Saipan will do just that! A full blown casino on Saipan would even do better—restore the 25-percent pension cut and extend the life of the pension fund for over 3,000 retirees and their children and pay off long overdue land compensation to the people of Saipan.

Again, to you and your self-serving nonsense, generate the millions of dollars needed to extend the life of the pension fund and pay off all unpaid land compensation to the people of Saipan and then, *and only then*, can you be a credible advocate for your despicable nonsense.

I applaud the members of the House and Senate for passing H.B. 18-51 and tip my hat to the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law for holding public hearings on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan and for reporting favorably on the bill to the full Senate for passage. The views expressed during the public hearing were overwhelmingly positive based on the committee report. Where were you during these public hearings?

The members of the 18th Legislature did a commendable job in passing H.B. 18-51. They made it clear that they care for over 3,000 retirees and their families and several thousand more defined benefit members. What do you care for? Or better, who do you care for?

I eagerly await the disclosure of your identity and your contributions to tourism and CNMI Treasury so that we can continue this dialogue.

Dianne Torres
Garapan, Saipan

Target breach shows fragile bargain with technology

When my wife informed me that Target had been the target of a data breach during the holiday season and we might be among the 164 gazillion people affected, my instinctive response was, "We're fine. We don't shop at Target much."

In fact, she shops at Target so much that our house is being overrun with plastic bags from the store. I use them as liners in trash cans, as receptacles every time I walk the dog and as rain hats whenever I'm feeling jaunty, but still the piles grow.

Nonetheless, when any situation rears its head that demands effort, I go to denial. Puddles on the floor are caused by humidity, not roof leaks. The bats that flew in through the chimney and are now rustling through the bedclothes are more likely just big, friendly moths. And any sounds emanating from cars, including whooshes, pops, whines and kabooms, are normal, and caused by changes in the temperature, altitude, barometric pressure or radio station.

Nothing is wrong. If something were wrong, I'd have to do something. And I'm not about to go around doing things.

Besides, once I started looking into the Target issue, I came up with a simple plan to alleviate much of the danger. Social Security numbers were not released, so having people create new accounts with our identity wasn't a big worry.

This wasn't nearly so bad as two years ago, when all (and I mean all) my family's personal and banking information, along with that of practically every person who paid taxes in South Carolina over a period of years, was stolen from the state by hackers.

This time the worry was people using our current debit and credit accounts, which I addressed by changing the PINs on the few cards we might have used there. So while I wasn't willing to admit there was a potential problem, as it would have ruined my streak, I did address things.

Although not, unfortunately, to the satisfaction of my bank. And it was when I got the letter from the lovely folks there that I was reminded how extraordinarily fragile our technology-laden lives are, how little it takes to upset them and what disasters we're in for when

By LANE FILLER

Newsday

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.



things go badly wrong.

My bank is worried that my debit card was compromised. My bank wants me to know it is on the problem like bees on Kool-Aid. My bank sent me a new card, and canceled my old one. All I have to do is switch charges I pay automatically on that card over to the new card, by identifying every bill and contacting every business. Oh, well, if that's all ...

This modern life works so well—until it doesn't. I auto-pay dozens of bills on that card, monthly, quarterly and annually. And I have no idea what they all are. On the bright side, as I hunt I'm likely to find ones I should stop paying, like the "Rolling Papers of the Month Club" fee. But the idea of searching through records to find every bill that debits and contacting every company to switch to the new card fills me with sick dread.

And this is a minor problem. Imagine a major one. Imagine the Internet destroyed by attackers, the power grid out, communications down, transportation stilled. How much cash do you have? How, if you don't get and keep paper statements, would you prove you had money in the bank? How would you prove you hadn't withdrawn it after the statement was printed?

If things fell apart, how long could you feed your family?






We live in a time of extraordinary ease, fragile as cobwebs. It could all go down, be breached, or bombed, or just fail, at any time. Most of us are utterly unprepared. Most of us are unwilling to prepare.

Maybe I'm not the only one who's so good at denial.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80

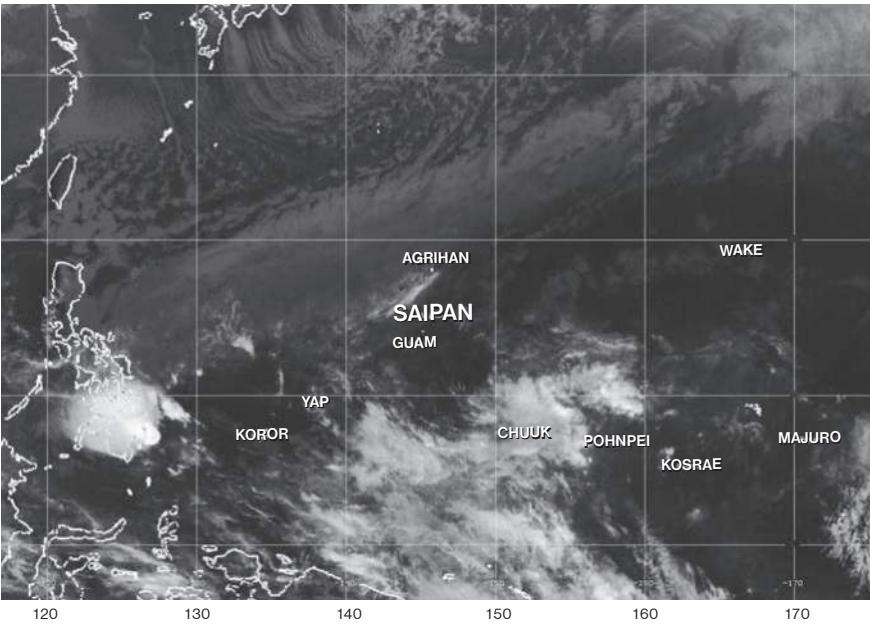
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 74 ▼ 68
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 41 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 50
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 67
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 54
Miami	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 56
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 21
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 37
Paris	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 36
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 26
Rome	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 43
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 34
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 43
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 30 ▼ 18
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 30

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:38 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N158E to northwest Saipan at 18N143E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 11N. Extensive cloudiness and rain are seen along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from near Mindanao through 8N130E passing between Koror and Yap at 8N136E to end near EQ152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring Southeast of Koror and Yap to well south of Chuuk south of a line from 5N135E to 9N142E to EQ156E. Trade-wind disturbances are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk state within 240 miles of a line from 5N150E to 12N158E and east of Majuro to Butaritari east of a line from EQ173E to 7N174E to 10N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:23 PM	9:07 AM
Tuesday	10:12 PM	9:46 AM
Wednesday	11:01 PM	10:25 AM
Thursday	11:52 PM	11:06 AM
Friday		11:50 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 DZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

AS CUC ADDRESSES TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH PRE-PAID MACHINE:

CUC installing free temporary post-paid meters

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is installing post-paid meters among its electric customers for free while the agency rectifies technical problems with its prepaid machine.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren said this effort aims to minimize and prevent any inconvenience among power patrons who use pre-paid meters for their electric consumption.

The utilities corporation early this month announced that there will be a delay in the installation of pre-paid meters as a result of upgrades needed


‘Freedom Riders’ to be shown as part of MLK Day remembrance

Aside from a special presentation by visiting judge Helen Shores Lee tonight at the American Memorial Park Theater, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council will also be showing the PBS documentary *Freedom Riders* on Jan. 24, 5pm at the Northern Marianas College Room D-1.


The film discussion session is open to the public at no charge.

Freedom Riders tells the story of interracial volunteers who rode a bus together through the segregated south in the early 1960. From award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson (*Wounded Knee*, *Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple*, *The Murder of Emmett Till*), the film features testimony from a fascinating cast

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy, happy 2nd birthday to our brother Jaytonn Jessiah Masga Palacios, who is celebrating his birthday today! May your day be filled with joy and happiness, and many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings coming out from your cousins EJ and Marleon Repeki and also your brother, Trygve Palacios.



Happy 5th month birthday to our one and only magas, Izayah Blazie! As days and months go by we are truly blessed to have you. We forever love you, son. Love, Mommy and Daddy.

for the metering program.

Warren assured that CUC is addressing the issue and in fact has taken necessary actions to resolve the problem immediately.

First, the failed system component has already been identified and ordered from a vendor, with expected delivery on island on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Warren said a prepaid system vendor engineering staff had also generated replacement tokens of \$50 denomination. All customers who had previously attempted to purchase tokens were also contacted by CUC, either by phone or home visit.

According to Warren, the CUC cashier and customer

of central characters: the Riders themselves, state and federal government officials, and journalists who witnessed the Rides firsthand.

The two-hour documentary is based on Raymond Arsenault’s book *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*.

Meanwhile, Lee’s presentation tonight at the AMP Theater is titled “From Dynamite Hill to the Halls of Justice: Continuing the Legacy of Dr. King through Service.” This presentation will start at 5:30pm and is free of charge and open to the public.

Lee, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, is a circuit judge of the 10th Judicial Court of Alabama and is active in community affairs.

She co-authored a book, *The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill*, that documents her father’s struggle for civil rights in Birmingham in the years before the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

While on Saipan, Lee will also make school presentations and give a Continuing Legal Education presentation to members of the CNMI Bar Association. Attorneys interested in attending the CLE presentation should contact the Bar Association for more details.

For more information on the film showing on Friday, Lee’s presentation tonight, and the CLE presentation, call the council staff at 235-4785. *(Mark Rabago)*

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job opening for the following position:

General Manager, Electronic Gaming (1)

Position Summary: Plan, direct, coordinate, and manage the entire operations of an e-gaming machine lounge, divisions, departments and/or all operating units. Plan, develop and maintain systems and procedures for operating efficiency. Manage staff for optimum performance. Ensure compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws and adherence to and maintenance of policy of confidentiality within the gaming operation. Produce maximum revenue levels. Perform other duties as assigned or as required.

Position Requirement: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or related field and a certificate in gaming operations plus demonstrated experience & ability in managing an e-gaming operation, evidenced by several years managing live table games or e-gaming machines operation or several years of successful work experience in one or more gaming operations and must be computer literate; ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form and the ability to handle multiple tasks; Knowledge and experience in strategic planning; marketing, brand reinforcement; networking, stakeholder communication; financial management, forecasting, budgeting, team building and development; staff management, mentoring and motivation; organizational, coordination and time management; complete all documentation accurately in accordance with standards and applicable local and federal laws. Ability to work any shift or hours including evenings, holidays, and weekends; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent leadership skills.

Compensation: Salary rate to be commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location: Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the Mita Travel Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

service office remained open until 11pm Thursday night to accommodate customers needing tokens.

He disclosed that 218 customers have purchased tokens since the token machine failed.

“Post-pay electric meters

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thurs.

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan’s Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeanolivia Grant, MD, MPH, Chief OB/GYN Department Title X Family Planning Program, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. The topic is “HPV in the Etiology of Cervical Cancer.” To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. *(CCA)*

Forum on language access closed for registration

The newly formed coalition Culture and Language Access Service Partners will be hosting a public forum on “Access to Language Equality” on Jan. 21, 2014, at the Somnak Ballroom of Westin Resort Guam. As of today, registration for participants is closed at about 240 pre-registered attendees. No on-site registration will be accepted. For more information, contact the PEACE office today

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary

a. Call to Order

b. Roll Call

c. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments¹

III. Reports

a. Chair's Report

b. Executive Director's Report

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

a. TDHC Casino Employee Applications

b. Ratification of Table Movement Requests

VI. Executive Session²

VII. Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters

VIII. Adjournment

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

are being installed for those customers unable to return to CUC for tokens. CUC is installing at no charge standard electric meters to ensure service while the system is repaired,” said Warren.

Thus far, he said, 34 meters

at 477-9079 thru 9083. *(PR)*

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy and Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following times:

- Jan. 22 from 12:45pm to 3:45pm and 9pm to 11:55pm
- Jan. 23 from 4:30pm to 8:30pm
- Jan. 24 from 12:45pm to 3:45pm and 9pm to 11:55pm

The Air Force also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Jan. 24, from 1pm to 6pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. *(PR)*

Guam senator lauds

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122

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POST OFFICE BOX 5222

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

TEL: (670) 234-6547

FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD.,
Plaintiff,

-v-

HENRY J. YAROFALPIY and the Estate of BERNADITA LIMES
YAROFALPIY,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 24, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 283, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 31, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 26th day of December, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

have been installed on Saipan, 19 on Rota, and none on Tinian.

Despite the ongoing failure of the pre-paid machine, CUC claims that reports of prolonged power interruptions were never reported to the office.

“To CUC’s knowledge, no

Torres’ appointment to Guam High Court

GUAM—Guam Sen. Frank Aguon Jr., releases the following statement on the recent selection of Justice Robert Torres, to serve as the Chief Justice for Guam: “I congratulate and commend Chief Justice Torres for being recognized amongst his peers to serve in this top leadership position,” said Aguon. “Chief Justice Torres has the experience and tenacity needed to continue moving our Judiciary, in a positive direction toward progress. As Oversight Chair on the Committee of the Judiciary of Guam, I look forward to working with him on various initiatives and efforts such as the possibility of establishing future court satellites on Guam that will help improve service and justice for our island community.” *(PR)*

Notice to CUC customers

As previously announced, CUC is currently experiencing a technical problem with its prepaid machine. The problem is expected to be fully resolved by Jan. 24. Until that time, prepaid tokens can be issued, but only in \$50 amounts. For those who cannot afford a \$50 token, special accommodations will be made. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience that this may cause. *(CUC)*

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122

THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC

POST OFFICE BOX 5222

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,

-v-

THERESE LIZAMA SALAS,
Defendant.

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 459, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 09 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4176, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 24, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 24th day of December, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

customers experienced prolonged power interruption. CUC crews worked until 3am Thursday night to install post-pay meters to affected customers,” he said, adding that post-pay meters will continue to be installed free of charges on an as-needed basis.

“Any prepaid customers who have purchased the \$50 tokens and are experiencing a power outage over the long weekend due to the token availability issue are encouraged to call the CUC hotline at 664-4CUC. Crews will be dispatched to install temporary post-paid meters,” said Warren.

He apologized for any inconvenience caused by the failure of the prepaid meter token machine. “There was no prior indication of any issues with the machine, or any warnings that a component failure was imminent,” he added.

F. MATTHEW SMITH

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Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427

Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,

vs.

PLASTAG ENTERPRISES, INC.,
the ESTATE OF PLASIDO M. TAGABUEL,
DORIS TAGABUEL,
ARLENE I. TAGABUEL, and
JOHN HENRY I. TAGABUEL,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 04-0482A

AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Plastag Enterprises, Inc., the Estate of Plasio M. Tagabuel, Doris Tagabuel, Arlene I. Tagabuel, and John Henry I. Tagabuel in the following described, real property situated in the CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot 2003-4-2, (formerly part of Lot 2003-4-R1, formerly part of Lot 2003-4, formerly part of Lot 2004-R2, formerly part of Lot 2003 REM, formerly part of original 2003, TD 771) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2110/88, the original of which was recorded 11 May 88 as Document No. 88-1525 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, January 31, 2014,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- 1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- 2. Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
- 3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- 4. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- 5. Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- 6. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- 7. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Plastag Enterprises, Inc., the Estate of Plasio M. Tagabuel, Doris Tagabuel, Arlene I. Tagabuel, and John Henry I. Tagabuel in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. Dated this 23rd day of December 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

TF Guam soldiers awarded for military service

Soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard's Task Force Guam, who recently returned from a nine-month deployment, were recognized for outstanding service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan.

The goal of the Army awards program is to foster mission accomplishment by recognizing excellence and motivating soldiers to high levels of performance and service. They were presented by Lt. Col. Michael A. Tougher, commander, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, who thanked each soldier for their service and commitment.

Three awards were presented: the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Twenty-nine Army Achievement Medals were awarded for outstanding achievement or meritorious service.

Four-hundred sixty-eight Army Commendation Medals were awarded to those soldiers who distinguished themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service.

The Bronze Star Medal is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence overall in the U.S. Military. Fifty-nine Bronze Star Medals were awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone. *(PR)*



Business

Obama's spy speech calms few privacy fears

By LARA JAKES
AP NATIONAL SECURITY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's orders to change some U.S. surveillance practices puts the burden on Congress to finally deal with a national security controversy that has spooked Americans and outraged foreign allies. But his proposed changes already have broad political support and avoid major action on one National Security Agency spy system that has far more reach.

Obama said very little Friday to assuage fears that the NSA will continue to sweep up billions of phone, email and text messages from across the globe.

In a speech at the Justice Department, Obama admitted that he has been torn between how to protect privacy rights and how to protect the U.S. from terror attacks—what officials have called the main purpose of the spy programs.

“The challenge is getting the details right, and that is not simple,” Obama said.



In this Jan. 17, 2014, photo, President Barack Obama Talks about National Security Agency surveillance at the Justice Department in Washington.

Making shoes in the US? One company finds a way

By KAVITA KUMAR
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

The fine print on cheap flip-flops—like a lot of other low-priced goods sold at big box stores—often says “Made in China.”

But a Missouri company has plans to make flip-flops, a garden clog and a soccer sandal that would instead bear a “Made in the U.S.A.” label. Priced from \$7 to \$12 a pair, the shoes are expected to begin hitting Wal-Mart stores next fall and into spring 2015.

It's been decades since the U.S. shoe industry sent most its manufacturing work abroad. Missouri, once a major center for footwear production, has also seen that part of its economy mostly disappear. But a handful of shoe companies still call the St. Louis region home.

One of them is Elan Polo International, a \$300 million company with about 100 people designing shoes and overseeing global production and distribution. An importer since its inception in 1976, the company's biggest customers include Wal-Mart and Target. It supplies the shoes sold under the private labels of both major retailers.

Executives at Elan Polo never gave much serious thought to producing shoes in the U.S. After all, the economics didn't seem to make it viable, with labor much cheaper in countries such as China. Today, about 99 percent of footwear sold in the U.S. is made overseas, according to the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America.

But that quickly began to change last year when Wal-Mart began challenging its suppliers to find a way to bring more production stateside. The push was part of a commitment by Wal-Mart to buy \$50 billion in American-made merchandise in the next 10 years. The pledge came after years of criticism of the retailer for selling so many imported goods from low-wage countries.

Wal-Mart's initiative set the folks at Elan Polo thinking: Was there a way to make some kind of shoe in the U.S. that could still be competitively priced with imports?

Joe Russell, Elan Polo's co-chief executive, said in a recent interview that the whole initiative would have been a “nonstarter” without Wal-Mart's encouragement. “It certainly seemed as though it would be a daunting task; however, with solid support from Wal-Mart, it also seemed as though it could be a doable deal,” he said.

So how did the company do it? It decided to tap into a certain kind of shoe production— injection molding—that requires little labor. Rising fuel prices and labor rates in China have also helped close the gap. Executives also note that by making the shoes in the U.S., the company would save money by avoiding taxes levied on imported footwear.

Now they are in the midst of setting up a factory from scratch in Hazlehurst, Ga., for which they will hire about 150 workers—eventually as many as 250. Production is expected to begin in late February or early March.

The U.S. initiative was tantalizing to many Elan Polo employees, who cross several time zones to make several trips to China each year to inspect production, Russell said.

“It's amazing—everybody raises their hand when I say, ‘Are you ready to go into American footwear?’ ” he said. “When you say, ‘Who wants to go to Guangdong?’ there are no hands raised.”

This initiative is especially notable in that many “Made in the USA” initiatives involve higher-priced goods for which consumers might be willing to pay more.

His speech had been anticipated since former NSA analyst Edward Snowden made off with an estimated 1.7 million documents related to surveillance and other NSA operations and gave them to several journalists around the world. The revelations in the documents—which brought upon Snowden criminal charges that he is hiding from in Russia—sparked a public debate about whether Americans wanted to give up some privacy in exchange for intelligence-gathering on terror suspects.

Privacy advocates and some lawmakers had sharp criticism for the speech's scant attention to an NSA program that intercepts billions of overseas Internet messages and phone conversations from foreigners each day.

The program, authorized under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, allows the U.S. government to read or listen to the messages and phone calls as long as they do not target American citizens living overseas. It is so massive that the NSA has built a sophisticated recording system to store and review the daily flood of messages and give analysts time to sort through a barrage of real-time content.

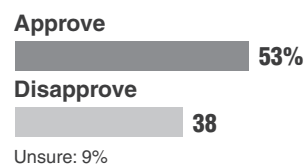
Obama said he would seek new restrictions on the government's ability to collect or use the overseas messages that accidentally included messages or phone calls from Americans. But he did not spell out how or by when.

Nor did Obama specify any sweeping changes to the so-called 702 program to protect foreigners' privacy, although he did broadly promise to order “the unprecedented step of extending certain protections

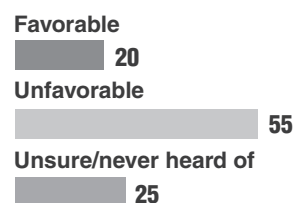
Has government gone too far?

A majority of Americans think the government's anti-terrorism program to collect information from phone calls, emails and Internet activity has gone too far and there should be limits to protect privacy, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll.

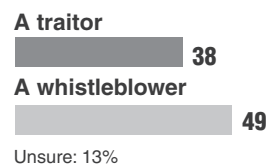
- How President Obama is handling homeland security and anti-terrorism



- Your impression of national security consultant Edward Snowden, who released classified information to the media



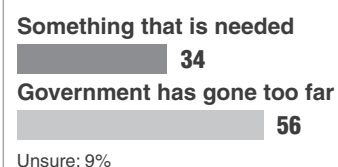
- The government's anti-terrorism program that collects information on people's phone calls, etc. became public when national security consultant Edward Snowden released classified information to the media; Snowden is:



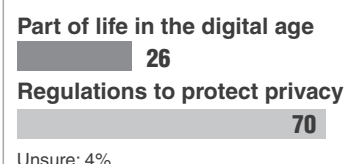
Source: McClatchy-Marist poll of 1,204 adults, July 15-18, 2013; margin of error: +/-2.8 percentage points; 980 registered voters; MOE: +/-3.1 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2013 MCT

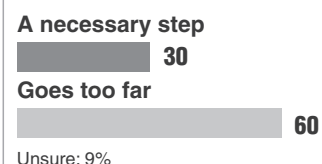
- Your opinion on the government's policy to collect information on people's phone calls, emails and Internet activity as part of its anti-terrorism efforts



- Should people assume their phone calls, etc. are being tracked as part of life in digital age or should there be regulations to limit what is tracked to protect privacy



- Your opinion on a government rule to avoid future information leaks: federal workers must track activities of colleagues or face harsh penalties, including possible criminal charges



vent their clients from defecting to foreign firms that might offer more protections. Many of the Internet messages collected by the NSA were from accounts on U.S.-based providers, including Microsoft, Yahoo, Google and Facebook.

Mark Jaycox, legislative analyst at the Electronic Frontier Foundation in San Francisco, predicted that the foreign surveillance under Section 702 will be Congress' next target after the government stops collecting and storing Americans' phone records. The EFF is a civil liberties program that is suing the NSA to reveal more information about the programs.

Three Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee indicated that changes to the Section 702 spy program would be next on their agenda.

Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon, Mark Udall of Colorado and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico said in a joint statement that foreign surveillance needs to ensure that Americans' communications are not inadvertently collected, and that U.S. tech firms and products are not “recklessly” undermined by intelligence-gathering in the name of tracking terrorists.

“Additional surveillance reforms are necessary and we will continue to push for these reforms in the coming weeks and months,” the senators said, shortly after Obama finished speaking.

It was clear that Obama's orders, however lacking, makes it nearly impossible for reluctant leaders in Congress to avoid making some changes to the U.S. phone surveillance they have supported for years. Even Obama acknowledged more needs to be done, and largely left it to Congress to work out the details.

Since Snowden's revelations began to emerge last June, the surveillance program that has generated the most furor is the daily collection of hundreds of millions of Americans' telephone records.

The NSA says it does not listen in on the phone calls or read the Internet messages without specific court orders. But intelligence officials do collect specific information about the calls and messages, including how long they lasted, what time they were initiated and the phone numbers of each party, to try to track suspected terrorists' communications.

Obama ordered new limits on the way intelligence officials access phone records from hundreds of millions of Americans—and moved toward eventually stripping the massive data collection from the government's hands.

that we have for the American people to people overseas.” He said that would include limiting the time that the U.S. holds the foreign information it collects—which officials have said can vary—while also restricting its use.

Given the mass of the foreign communications surveillance, the reforms offered Friday extended just a “sliver” of respite

from fears of U.S. spying, said Matt Simons, director of social and economic justice at Chicago-based software company ThoughtWorks.

“There was a clear attempt to narrow down what we're talking about to the easiest, lowest hanging fruit,” said Simons, whose company is among a number of U.S. tech firms demanding broad reforms to pre-

Nation

Surge in shark attacks causes alarm in Hawaii

By MAEVE RESTON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MAKENA STATE PARK, Hawaii—After a record year of attacks across the Hawaii ar-

chipelago, sharks were not far from Colin Dececco's mind as the sun went down on the long white strip of sand here on a recent Sunday evening.

He and his daughter had had

a close encounter with a reef shark while swimming around the rocky cove at the north end of Makena's Big Beach that morning. Now, watching a spear fisherman haul in his catch as

they strolled by the same spot at sunset, they heard a splash at the edge of his net.

It was an 8-foot tiger shark, one of the most aggressive shark species in Hawaii's

waters and the likely culprit for many of the 14 attacks in 2013, eight of which occurred around Maui, near Makena's beaches and elsewhere. Releasing his net, the fisherman took off running down the shoreline, shouting for swimmers to get out of the water.

"By then everyone was kind of running," Dececco said in an interview moments after he and his daughter had scrambled up the rocky cliff above the cove for a better view. "Tiger sharks—you don't play with them."

In a state where tourism drives the economy, the uptick in shark encounters has alarmed visitors and business owners alike. Both 2013 fatalities—a German snorkeler and a Washington state kayak fisherman—occurred in the waters near Makena State Park. But there are no permanent warning signs here on a coastline that boasts luxury hotels including the Four Seasons Resort Maui and the Waldorf Astoria's Grand Wailea.

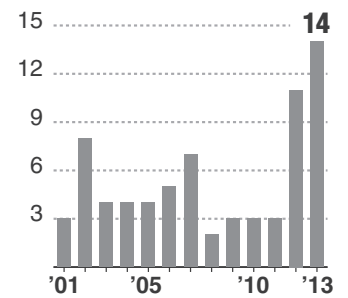
For years, the state Department of Land and Natural Resources has posted signs and closed the beach immediately after an attack until noon the next day, if officials on helicopter and jet ski patrols believe the shark has left the vicinity. And for now, they see no need to change that policy.

"There is no pattern. There are spikes; there are lulls," said William Aila Jr., the department's chairman. But shortly after the German tourist died in August, the state agency announced a two-year, \$186,000 study by University of Hawaii researchers to determine whether tiger sharks spend more time in areas used for ocean recreation around Maui than the other islands.

So far, the increases in attacks in 2012 and 2013—which followed three years in which there were just three shark attacks annually—do not appear to have affected tourism. More than 2.1 million people visited Maui last year, figures that Ter-

Shark attacks

In 2013, Hawaii had a record number of shark attacks. Two in the waters off Makena State Park on Maui resulted in fatalities.



Source: Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Graphic: Lorena Elebee, Los Angeles Times
© 2014 MCT

ryl Vencel, executive director of the Maui Visitors Bureau, said she had not seen since before the recession.

"I think people realize it is still a rare occurrence," Vencel said in an email.

There is no question, however, that many swimmers and snorkelers are adjusting their routines based on the location of encounters. No pattern has emerged linking the likelihood of an attack with the distance from shore: The kayak fisherman was 900 yards off Makena; the German snorkeler was 50 yards offshore. But a number of tourists said in interviews that they were not swimming out as far.

"I went in waist-deep, that was it," said Karen O'Brien, a 49-year-old tourist from Toronto. Last year, O'Brien snorkeled off Molokini, a small island off the southwest coast of Maui. But after reading that the kayak fisherman was attacked near Molokini, she said, "I wasn't interested."

Island native Lorraine Alesna, who has long fished at Makena Landing—a popular launching spot for kayakers and snorkelers—shook her head at the jet skiers, kite surfers and other tourists who zoomed into the waves without paying attention to pupping season for sharks (the winter months), or common-sense tips like avoiding turbid water that attracts them.

As LA-area fire wanes, dangerous conditions remain



An aircraft drops fire retardant on the Colby Fire on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, near Azusa, Calif.

AP

GLENDORA, Calif. (AP)—Hundreds of residents who fled a wildfire in the suburbs of Los Angeles returned home Saturday as red-flag warnings of extremely dangerous fire conditions expired, but officials say that bone-dry winter conditions remain a threat for the region.

The last wave of evacuees in the Azusa neighborhood known as Mountain Cove, about 25 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles, were allowed to return home Saturday evening.

"It's exhilarating ... very thankful (to the firefighters) for saving our community,"

resident Alexandra Ramos told KNBC-TV.

Crews focused on securing fire lines around the roughly 3-square-mile blaze and looked ahead to rehabilitating the burn area to prevent erosion and possible mudslides, said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Robert Brady. Containment increased from 30 percent earlier in the day to 61 percent.

"It's starting to look fairly good," Brady said. "We're still in very dry conditions, so I would remind people to be careful out there."

The fire erupted early Thursday in the Angeles National

Forest when Santa Ana winds hit a campfire that authorities said was recklessly set by three men. Gusts quickly spread flames from the San Gabriel Mountains into Glendora and Azusa, where some 3,700 people had to evacuate at the fire's peak.

Five homes were destroyed and 17 other houses, garages and other structures were damaged, according to early assessments.

Red-flag warnings of critical danger due to the combination of winds, extremely low humidity and extraordinarily dry vegetation were repeatedly ex-

tended during the week. Some warnings for mountain areas expired at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The state is in a period of extended dry weather compounded in Southern California by repeated periods of the regional Santa Anas, dry and powerful winds that blow from the interior toward the coast, pushing back the normal flow of moist ocean air and raising temperatures to summerlike levels.

The dry conditions statewide led Gov. Jerry Brown to formally declare a drought Friday in order to seek a range of federal assistance.

Mayor: Christie aides tied Sandy funds to project

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—The Christie administration withheld millions of dollars in Superstorm Sandy recovery grants from a New Jersey city because its mayor refused to sign off on a politically connected commercial development, the mayor said Saturday.

Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer alleged that Gov. Chris Christie's lieutenant governor and a top community development official told her recovery funds would flow to her city if she allowed the project to move forward.

Zimmer said Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno pulled her aside at an

event in May and told her Sandy aid was tied to the project—a proposal from the New York City-based Rockefeller Group aimed at prime real estate in the densely populated city across the river from New York City.

The Democratic mayor said the Republican administration officials wanted Rockefeller's plans for the property approved, while Zimmer said she preferred to go through normal channels and hear from all stakeholders, including the public and owners of adjacent property. Rockefeller Group owns about three blocks of the 19-block area.

"I was directly told the by the lieutenant governor—she made it very clear—that the Rockefeller project needed to move forward or they wouldn't be able to help me," Zimmer told The Associated Press.

"There is no way I could ethically do what the governor, through the lieutenant governor, is asking me to do," she said.

Christie's office denied Zimmer's claims, calling her statements politically motivated. Spokesman Colin Reed said the administration has been helping Hoboken secure assistance since Sandy struck. "Christie

himself was raising money Saturday for fellow Republicans in Florida. The fundraisers were closed to reporters.

Hoboken is hiring a planner to rehabilitate the area, and Rockefeller will have an opportunity to offer input along with others who have an interest in development of the property, said Juan Melli, a spokesman for Zimmer.

A state website that tracks the distribution of Sandy aid shows that Hoboken received a \$200,000 post-storm planning grant in October out of a \$1.8 billion pot of money controlled by the state. Hoboken also received a \$142,000 state energy resilience grant.

Besides state money, Hoboken has received \$70 million in recovery funds distributed by the federal government, according to the Christie administration. Zimmer said she has applied for \$100 million to implement a comprehensive plan to help insulate her city from future floods.

Christie already is embroiled in another scandal involving traffic jams apparently manufactured to settle a political score. At a recent news conference to discuss the lane closures on the approach to the George Washington Bridge, Christie brushed aside questions about his aggressive governing style. "I am who I am," said Christie,

"I am not a bully."

But Zimmer said Guadagno and Community Affairs Commissioner Richard Constable, a member of Christie's cabinet, both delivered messages about Sandy aid in no uncertain terms.

Zimmer, who first spoke with MSNBC on Saturday, told the cable network that at another event in May, Constable said "the money would start flowing to you" if she backed the project.

The Rockefeller Group did not immediately return a phone message left by The Associated Press. In a statement to MSNBC, a spokesman said it had no knowledge of any information related to Zimmer's claims.

Asia

Four hurt in Bangkok blasts

BANGKOK (AP)—Two small explosions shook an anti-government demonstration site in Thailand's capital on Sunday, wounding at least four people in the latest violence to hit Bangkok as the increasingly volatile nation's political crisis drags on.

It was not immediately clear what caused the blasts at Victory Monument, in northern Bangkok, but there was no serious damage visible in the area.

The Erawan Medical Center, which tracks casualties, said the injured were taken to four different hospitals in the city.

Witnesses said the explosions occurred about two minutes apart. The first blast went off about 100-200 meters (yards) from a stage set up by protesters, and the second went off near a row of vendors selling anti-government T-shirts.

The protesters, who control several small patches of Bangkok, are vying to overthrow Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government and derail Feb. 2 elections she called in a bid to quell the crisis.

Bangkok, a vast city of 12 million people, is calm, but such incidents have occurred nearly every day over the last week, including shooting attacks at pro-



A Thai anti-government protester blows a whistle while marching in a street at a rally, Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

test venues and small explosives hurled at the homes of top protest supporters.

It is unclear who is behind the unrest. But prolonged violence, even on a small scale, increases the chance that the military will stage a coup. Such a scenario would benefit protesters, who have called on the army to take sides and do not have the numbers to bring down the government on their own.

Thailand's army has staged about a dozen successful coups since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932. The last coup, in

2006, toppled then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra - Yingluck's brother - and touched off a societal schism that in broad terms pits the majority rural poor who back the Shinawatras against an urban-based elite establishment supported by the army and staunch royalists who see Yingluck's family as a corrupt threat to the traditional structures of power. Yingluck's opponents - a minority that can no longer win at the polls - argue the Shinawatras are using their electoral majority to impose their will and subvert democracy.

The crisis boiled over again late last year after the ruling party attempted to push through an amnesty bill that would have allowed Thaksin to return from self-imposed exile. Thaksin has lived abroad since 2008 to avoid a prison sentence for a corruption conviction.

Late Saturday night, a gunman opened fire on anti-government protesters in Bangkok's Lad Prao district, where protesters have taken over a key intersection. A 54-year-old man was shot in the back and seriously wounded in the shooting. He underwent surgery at a hospital and was in an intensive care unit on Sunday, the Erawan Center said.

Afghan attack deadliest of war for foreign workers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban attack against a popular Kabul restaurant killed 21 people, authorities said Saturday, making it the deadliest single attack against foreign civilians in the course of a nearly 13-year U.S.-led war there now approaching its end.

The attack comes as security has been deteriorating and apprehension has been growing among Afghans over their country's future as U.S.-led foreign forces prepare for a final withdrawal at the end of the year.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who is deferring signing an agreement allowing U.S. forces to stay past the planned withdrawal until after the country's April 5 presidential elec-

tion, criticized America while condemning the attack.

"If NATO forces and in the lead the United States of America want to cooperate and be united with Afghan people, they must target terrorism," he said without fully elaborating on what America should be doing. He added that the U.S. had followed a policy that "was not successful in the past decade."

The dead from Friday's assault against La Taverna du Liban included 13 foreigners and eight Afghans, all civilians. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul said late Saturday that three Americans were killed. Previously, those identified included two U.S. citizens

working for the American University of Afghanistan and a victim identified by the United Nations as Basra Hassan, a Somali-American working as a nutrition specialist for UNICEF.

Others identified were two Britons—development specialist Dharmender Singh Phangura and close protection officer Simon Chase—two Canadians who worked for a financial services firm, two Lebanese, a Danish police officer, a Russian, and a Malaysian. Phangura, who along with the Malaysian worked as an adviser for Adam Smith International, was to run as a Labour Party candidate in upcoming elections for the European Parliament.

said. "Also, it's an emotional occasion when police cannot take harsh measures to push back the crowd."

The Syedna had succeeded his father in 1965 and led the community for nearly five decades. He was well known as a promoter of education and spiritual values in his community.

Tens of thousands of Dawoodi Bohra Muslims from all over India and several other countries headed to Mumbai for his funeral later Saturday.

Across Mumbai, shops and businesses owned by Bohra Muslims were closed Saturday in homage to their leader.

18 dead in stampede after India Muslim leader dies

MUMBAI, India (AP)—A pre-dawn stampede killed 18 people Saturday as tens of thousands of people gathered to mourn the death of a Muslim spiritual leader in India's financial capital, police said.

At least 40 other people were injured in the stampede when mourners thronged the home of Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin, the head of the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community, Mumbai Police Commissioner Satya Pal Singh said.

Burhanuddin died Friday at the age of 102.

Thousands of white-clad mourners had thronged the streets of Malabar Hill, an up-

market neighborhood in south Mumbai. Many were wailing and crying as they inched forward through the narrow road.

Singh said the stampede occurred when the gates leading to the spiritual leader's house were closed at about 1 a.m. The crowds surged forward, with many people getting crushed near the gates and with no way to escape.

Singh acknowledged that crowd management around the Syedna's home was poor and said police at the scene were badly outnumbered by the huge number of mourners.

"We didn't think the crowd would be so great," Singh

World

Voters overwhelmingly back Egypt's newest constitution

CAIRO (AP)—Almost everyone who cast ballots supported Egypt's new constitution in this week's referendum, results announced Saturday show, but a boycott by Islamists and low youth turnout suggest the country is still dangerously divided.

Nearly 20 million voters backed the new constitution, almost double the number of those who voted for one drafted in 2012 under the government of toppled Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. Only a narrow sliver of voters—1.9 percent—voted against the charter, after a massive government-sponsored campaign supporting it and the arrest of activists campaigning against it.

"Despite a milieu of intense social upheaval and acts of terrorism and sabotage that sought to derail the process, Egyptians have now marked yet another defining moment in our roadmap to democracy," presidential spokesman Ehab Badawy said. "The outcome represents nothing less than the dawning of a new Egypt."

The expected overwhelming support for the charter is seen as key to legitimizing Egypt's military-backed interim government, and the political plan put in place since Morsi's ouster in July. Analysts say



An Egyptian voter holds a card with the photo of Defense Minister, Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi with Arabic that reads, "Sissi, I wish you be my president," in front of a polling station in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014.

it also suggests military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who led the coup against Morsi, has enough popular support to make a rumored run for the presidency himself.

It was the first vote since the military removed Morsi following massive protests in July. Hundreds celebrated in the streets after officials announced the results, including Hoda Hamza, a housewife who waved an Egyptian flag in Cairo's Tahrir Square and carried a picture of el-Sissi with an inscription reading: "By the order of the people, el-Sissi is president."

Hamza called the passage of the constitution a foregone conclusion.

Now, "I wish el-Sissi will be president," Hamza said. "We have no better man. ... If it weren't for the army, we wouldn't have food on the table."

Morsi supporters, who boycotted the vote, immediately challenged the results. Despite being outlawed and labeled a terrorist group, Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and its allies continue to hold near-daily protests that often devolve into clashes with police.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syrian opposition to attend peace conference

ISTANBUL (AP)—The main, Western-backed Syrian opposition group voted Saturday in favor of attending a coming peace conference aimed at ending the country's bloody civil war, paving the way for the first direct talks between the rival sides in the nearly three-year conflict. The vote in Istanbul came as food supplies began entering a besieged rebel-held Palestinian refugee camp in Syria's capital for the first time in months, an apparent goodwill gesture by President Bashar Assad's government ahead of the peace conference, Palestinian and United Nations officials said. The Syrian National Coalition was under huge pressure from its Western and Arab sponsors to attend the peace talks, scheduled to open Wednesday in the Swiss city of Montreux. The Syrian government has already said it will attend the U.N.-sponsored talks.

ernment troops over control of the country's contested Anbar province, killed at least 30 people Saturday, officials said. The bombings struck neighborhoods around the capital, Baghdad. A car bomb exploded near a restaurant in the western neighborhood of Mansour, killing four people and wounding 12, police said. Another exploded near a bus station in eastern Baghdad, killing four people and wounding six, authorities said. In northern Baghdad, a car bomb blast near a hospital killed four people and wounded eight, police said. A car bomb went off in a commercial street of the Jamia neighborhood in western Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 13, officials said.

AP: Pope defrocked 400 priests in 2 years

VATICAN CITY (AP)—In his last two years as pope, Benedict XVI defrocked nearly 400 priests for raping and molesting children, more than twice as many as the two years that preceded a 2010 explosion of sex abuse cases in Europe and beyond, according to a document obtained Friday by The Associated Press and an analysis of Vatican statistics. The data—260 priests defrocked in

2011 and 124 in 2012, a total of 384—represented a dramatic increase over the 171 priests defrocked in 2008 and 2009. It was the first compilation of the number of priests forcibly removed for sex abuse by the Vatican's in-house procedures—and a canon lawyer said the real figure is likely far higher, since the numbers don't include sentences meted out by diocesan courts.

French first lady leaves hospital after resting

PARIS (AP)—France's first lady on Saturday ended a more than weeklong stay at a hospital where she went to rest after a gossip magazine's report about an alleged affair between President Francois Hollande and an actress. Hours after Valerie Trierweiler left a Paris hospital, she thanked her supporters. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all who sent messages of support and recovery" by email or social media, Trierweiler tweeted. "Very touched." A member of Trierweiler's entourage confirmed numerous French media reports that she left La Pitie-Salpetriere hospital. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Focus

Q&A about Obama's new NSA rules



WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is putting limits on the harvesting of Americans' phone records and seeking revisions to a program that sweeps up email and Internet data around the world, seven months after former National Security Agency analyst Edward Snowden began divulging the secret spying. Some questions and answers about Obama's plan:

Q: Why did Obama decide to make changes?

A: The president has been under pressure since Snowden took an estimated 1.7 million documents from the NSA and gave them to journalists around the world. The U.S. public, Congress and allies overseas were shocked to learn the extent of the NSA's post-9/11 surveillance. Soon after Snowden's disclosure in June, Obama promised to review the system that has changed rapidly as technology improved.

Q: Do the changes happen right away?

A: No. Some involve altering the USA Patriot Act, and that requires Congress to draft, debate and pass legislation. Other changes won't be carried out until the administration resolves big logistics questions. In some cases, Obama ordered the Justice Department and spy agencies to figure out how to implement new privacy protections, which will take time.

Q: Will the government get out of my phone records?

A: For now, the NSA will keep collecting and storing call data.

The program gathers the phone numbers called and the length of conversations, but not the content of the calls. Obama says the NSA needs to tap those records sometimes to find people linked to suspected terrorists. But eventually he wants the bulk data to be stored somewhere out of the government's hands, to reduce the risk that the information will be abused.

Q: So where will my records go?

A: That's not yet decided. Obama told Attorney General Eric Holder and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper to find a solution within 60 days, about the time the NSA surveillance programs are up for their quarterly reauthorization by a secret national security court. That could mean arranging for phone companies to store the records, although the companies already are balking at that. The government could create a new third-party entity to hold the records, or come up with some other plan.

In the meantime, Obama ordered two immediate changes:

-Analysts hunting through data will have to stay a little closer to the original suspected terrorist or organization. They will be able to look at communications two steps away, instead of three.

-The administration will require a special judge's advance approval



President Barack Obama talks about National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance, Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, at the Justice Department in Washington.

before intelligence agencies can examine someone's data. The NSA has been able to decide for itself whether it has reasonable cause to run a query.

Q: What about the NSA reading my email or watching my online activities?

A: The bulk collection of online data is supposed to target only people outside the United States, as part of national security investigations. But it does end up sweeping up information about some Americans in the process. Obama asked Holder and Clapper to consider whether new privacy safeguards could be added.

Q: What about the phone calls and emails of people living abroad?

A: Obama says the U.S. should respect the privacy of non-Americans, too. He said he will extend to foreigners some of the protections against spying that apply to U.S. citizens. He directed Holder and Clapper to look into new restrictions on how long the U.S. can hold data collected overseas and how that data is used.

The U.S. won't spy on ordinary people who don't threaten national security, Obama says.

He issued a directive saying that intelligence-gathering can't be employed to suppress criticism of the United States

Edward Snowden leaks

Materials leaked by Edward Snowden, a former CIA technical worker and National Security Agency (NSA) contractor, allege that the U.S. government conducted widespread surveillance of its own citizens and of other nations.



June 13 Snowden says the U.S. government has been hacking computers in mainland China, Hong Kong

June 16 The Guardian reveals the U.S. and the U.K. spied on foreign leaders and diplomats at the 2009 G20 summit

June 29 Germany's Der Spiegel reports the U.S. bugged EU offices in Washington and at U.N. headquarters

Mid-Sept. U.S. accused of spying on Brazilian and Mexican leaders, based on documents leaked by Snowden

Oct. 21 French newspaper Le Monde claims NSA eavesdropped on millions of phone calls in France

Oct. 24 German media reports that the U.S. was bugging Chancellor Angela Merkel's phone for more than a decade

Oct. 28 Spanish media report NSA secretly monitored 60 million phone calls in Spain in one month

Source: AP, BBC, Reuters Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2013 MCT

or provide a competitive advantage to U.S. companies.

Q: What about spying on world leaders?

A: In response to international criticism, Obama is making assurances that the U.S. won't spy on its allies' heads of state. But the White House declined to say which world leaders are on that "friends" list.

Obama noted that other countries, including some who have complained

about the NSA, constantly try to snoop on the U.S. government's phone calls and email. He says there are compelling national security reasons for snooping on foreign governments and the U.S. won't apologize for being better at it.

Q: What else did Obama do?

A: Obama called for creation of a panel of advocates to represent privacy and civil liberty concerns before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court that oversees the spy programs. The advocates would argue before the court only in certain significant cases, such as those dealing with a new issue. Congress would have to vote to make this happen, however.

Obama also is asking a senior White House adviser, John Podesta, to lead a broad review of the use of "big data," with input from technology companies and privacy experts.

Other changes include a plan to reveal a little more information about the secret national security letters that the government issues to banks, phone companies and others to demand information about certain customers.

Q: Will the changes satisfy critics of the programs?

A: No. Many civil liberties advocates and tech industry representatives say Obama didn't go far enough.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., called it "the same unconstitutional program with a new configuration." Rep. Justin Amash, R-Mich., said Congress "must do what the president apparently will not" and take action to "close the era of secret law."

Several Democratic critics of the NSA said more must be done but applauded Obama's first step.

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., said: "I tip my hat to him. This is the beginning of the mission, but he clearly listened."

Q: So what will Congress do?

A: Too soon to say. Obama's actions might breathe new life into the major bill to rein in the NSA, which has been blocked so far by congressional leaders in both parties.

Polls show Americans disapproving of some of NSA's snooping, and many rank-and-file Republicans and Democrats have pushed for changes that go beyond what Obama announced Friday.

Last July, a plan to shut down NSA's phone call database fell only a few votes shy of passing the House.

Yet the Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate intelligence committees have all endorsed the bulk collection of phone records as a valuable tool in terrorism investigations.

House Speaker John Boehner said the House would review any legislation proposed by Obama but "will not erode the operational integrity of critical programs that have helped keep America safe."

Q: Will Obama's changes make it harder to track terrorists?

A: For months intelligence agency leaders have vigorously argued that their sweeping programs help stop terrorists. On Friday, Clapper said Obama was focused on striking the right balance.

The president's own review board recommended that the NSA's bulk collection of millions of phone records come to an end.

The review said the information gleaned from the "metadata" hasn't been essential to preventing attacks and could have been obtained through more conventional routes. It also noted that not all phone service's records are collected, reducing the program's usefulness.

Yet some changes, such as Obama's new requirement that analysts get a judge's approval before querying the phone database, could slow investigations.

Q: What happened to Snowden?

A: Snowden fled the country before his revelations became public. He is currently living in Russia, granted temporary asylum from the criminal charges he faces in the United States for disseminating classified information.

Some supporters call him a hero and want Obama to grant him amnesty or a plea deal. The White House has dismissed those notions.

"I'm not going to dwell on Mr. Snowden's actions or motivations," Obama said. "I will say that our nation's defense depends in part on the fidelity of those entrusted with our nation's secrets."

Health & Fitness

Google contact lens could be option for diabetics

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Brian Otis gingerly holds what looks like a typical contact lens on his index finger. Look closer. Sandwiched in this lens are two twinkling glitter-specks loaded with tens of thousands of miniaturized transistors. It's ringed with a hair-thin antenna. Together these remarkable miniature electronics can monitor glucose levels in tears of diabetics and then wirelessly transmit them to a handheld device.

"It doesn't look like much, but it was a crazy amount of work to get everything so very small," he said before the project was unveiled Thursday.

During years of soldering hair-thin wires to miniaturize electronics, Otis burned his fingertips so often that he can no longer feel the tiny chips he made from scratch in Google's Silicon Valley headquarters, a small price to pay for what he says is the smallest wireless glucose sensor ever made.

Just 35 miles away in the beach town of Santa Cruz, high school soccer coach and university senior Michael Vahradian, 21, has his own set of fingertip callouses, his from pricking himself up to 10 times a day for the past 17 years to draw blood for his glucose meter. A cellphone-sized pump on his hip that attaches to a flexible tube implanted in his stomach shoots rapid-acting insulin into his body around the clock.

"I remember at first it was really hard to make the needle sticks a habit because it hurt so much," he said. "And there are

still times I don't want to do it—it hurts and it's inconvenient. When I'm hanging out with friends, heading down to the beach to body-surf or going to lunch, I have to hold everyone up to take my blood sugar."

The idea that all of that monitoring could be going on passively, through a contact lens, is especially promising for the world's 382 million diabetics who need insulin and keep a close watch on their blood sugar.

The prototype, which Google says will take at least five years to reach consumers, is one of several medical devices being designed by companies to make glucose monitoring for diabetic patients more convenient and less invasive than traditional finger pricks.

The contact lenses were developed during the past 18 months in the clandestine Google X lab that also came up with a driverless car, Google's Web-surfing eyeglasses and Project Loon, a network of large balloons designed to beam the Internet to unwired places.

But research on the contact lenses began several years earlier at the University of Washington, where scientists worked under National Science Foundation funding. Until Thursday, when Google shared information about the project with The Associated Press, the work had been kept under wraps.

"You can take it to a certain level in an academic setting, but at Google we were given the latitude to invest in this project," Otis said. "The beautiful thing is we're leveraging all of the inno-



In this photo from Jan. 15, 2014, Brian Otis, Google X project lead, holds a contact lens Google is testing to explore tear glucose in Mountain View, Calif.

vation in the semiconductor industry that was aimed at making cellphones smaller and more powerful."

American Diabetes Association board chair Dwight Holing said he's gratified that creative scientists are searching for solutions for people with diabetes but warned that the device must provide accurate and timely information.

"People with diabetes base very important health care decisions on the data we get from our monitors," he said.

Other non-needle glucose monitoring systems are also in the works, including a similar contact lens by Netherlands-based NovioSense, a minuscule, flexible spring that is

tucked under an eyelid. Israel-based OrSense has already tested a thumb cuff, and there have been early designs for tattoos and saliva sensors.

A wristwatch monitor was approved by the FDA in 2001, but patients said the low level electric currents pulling fluid from their skin was painful, and

it was buggy.

"There are a lot of people who have big promises," said Dr. Christopher Wilson, CEO of NovioSense. "It's just a question of who gets to market with something that really works first."

Palo Alto Medical Foundation endocrinologist Dr. Larry Levin said it was remarkable

and important that a tech firm like Google is getting into the medical field and that he'd like to be able to offer his patients a pain-free alternative from either pricking their fingers or living with a thick needle embedded in their stomach for constant monitoring.

"Google, they're innovative, they are up on new technologies, and also we have to be honest here, the driving force is money," he said.

Worldwide, the glucose-monitoring devices market is expected to be more than \$16 billion by the end of this year, according to analysts at Renub Research.

The Google team built the wireless chips in clean rooms and used advanced engineering to get integrated circuits and a glucose sensor into such a small space.

Researchers also had to build in a system to pull energy from incoming radio frequency waves to power the device enough to collect and transmit one glucose reading per second. The embedded electronics in the lens don't obscure vision because they lie outside the eye's pupil and iris.

Surgeon general urges new resolve to end smoking

WASHINGTON (AP)—One in 13 children could see their lives shortened by smoking unless the nation takes more aggressive action to end the tobacco epidemic, the U.S. Surgeon General said Friday—even as, astonishingly, scientists added still more diseases to the long list of cigarettes' harms.

"Enough is enough," acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak declared at a White House ceremony unveiling the 980-page report that urges new resolve to make the next generation a smoke-free generation.

"The clock is ticking," Lushniak said. "We can't wait another 50 years."

On the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1964 surgeon general's report that launched the anti-smoking movement, far fewer Americans are smoking—about 18 percent of adults today, down from more than 42 percent in 1964.

But the government may not meet its goal of dropping that rate to 12 percent by 2020, the

new report cautions.

Nearly half a million people will die from smoking-related diseases this year. Each day, more than 3,200 youths smoke their first cigarette. New products such as e-cigarettes, with effects that aren't yet understood, complicate public health messages.

And if current trends continue unabated, 5.6 million of today's children and teens will go on to die prematurely during adulthood because of smoking, the report says.

What's particularly remarkable is that 50 years into the war on smoking, "we're still finding out new ways that tobacco maims and kills people," added Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Tobacco is even worse than we knew it was."

Lung cancer and heart disease have long been known to be the top causes of death for smokers. Friday's report adds more entries to the official list of

smoking-caused diseases, many of them costly chronic illnesses that people struggle with for years. Included are Type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, erectile dysfunction, the macular degeneration that can blind older adults, and the birth defects cleft palate and cleft lip. Also new to the list are two additional cancers—liver and colorectal.

Smoking is costing the nation nearly \$300 billion in medical bills, lost productivity and other costs, officials said. Yet Frieden said states are spending less than \$1.50 a person on tobacco control each year when they should be spending about \$12 a person.

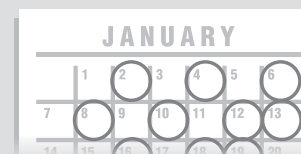
The report urges increased use of proven tobacco-control measures, including price hikes for cigarettes and expanding comprehensive indoor-smoking bans that currently cover about half the population.

The report also encourages research into newer ideas, such as whether lowering the amount of addictive nicotine in cigarettes would help people quit.

Personal Trainer

Setting a cardio goal

Regular cardiovascular exercise is one of the most health-promoting things you can do for your body; these are reasonable goals:



How often?
3 to 5 cardio workouts a week

How long?

5-10 minutes of low-intensity warm-up; until you sweat lightly

Such as walking briskly, biking or jogging



20-60 minutes of repetitive, continuous exercise that works your large muscle groups

Such as biking, swimming, stair climbing, rowing, cross-country skiing

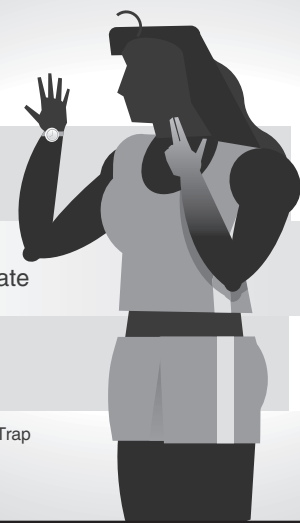
How intense?

Use a watch or clock to monitor your heart rate

Maximum heart rate Do not exceed	220 minus your age
Cardio goal	Between 55 and 90 percent of maximum rate
Not intense enough	Less than 55 percent of maximum rate

Source: Bally Total Fitness

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap



Life & Style

Chef Colombo dishes out authentic Italian spaghetti

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Spaghetti has become as ubiquitous as your typical burger and fries fare in the menu of Saipan restaurants, but Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo says the only authentic Italian spaghetti served on island is the one he makes at Giovanni's.

Colombo got a chance to showcase what makes Italian food different from other cuisines last Tuesday when he personally cooked spaghetti *al dente* with tomato sauce and fresh basil.

It was part of the Garapan landmark's celebration of the International Day of Italian Cuisine set from Jan. 17 to 31.

"What makes spaghetti an authentic Italian dish are of course the ingredients. That's the most important. It's so simple and so easy to make but the key are always the ingredients. The pasta has to be *al dente*. There should be a bite to it."

To do this, Colombo usually lops off a minute or two from what the cooking instructions say at the back of the pasta carton. "So if the instructions say 12 minutes, I usually cook them for about 10 minutes."

For Tuesday's cooking demonstration, he used De Cecco brand of wheat Italian spaghetti.

To make the sauce, Colombo said it is always important not to overpower the flavor of the spaghetti's star ingredient, the

San Marzano tomato.

Imported from Italy, the richness of the land that surrounds Mt. Vesuvius, where this type of tomato is grown, gives San Marzano tomatoes its unique flavor, he said.

Instead of chopping the garlic, Colombo crushes it gently and sautés it using only extra virgin olive oil. He cautioned not to burn it unless you want a bitter tasting sauce.

"Never burn the garlic. Just crush the garlic. Cook for only a minute. Don't need powerful flavor. If sliced it will overpower the tomato," he said, adding that unlike American spaghetti with its over-reliance on onions and other herbs, authentic Italian spaghetti uses only garlic.

After lightly browning the

crushed garlic, Colombo then added the tomatoes and cooked them 8-10 minutes in medium heat.

For the demonstration, Colombo used canned San Marzano tomato complemented by fresh tomatoes and Tuscani Extra Virgin Oil.

After the pasta and sauce were done, Colombo then composed the dish by tossing the former with the tomato sauce and cooking them together for 1-2 minutes, again over medium heat.

Colombo then added some fresh basil leaves into the dish—direct from Hyatt's own garden—while it simmered.

The dish was garnished by fresh basil leaves, a few drops of virgin oil and, depending on



MARK RABAGO

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo with his spaghetti *al dente* with tomato sauce and fresh basil.

American Hustle' tops SAG Awards

"David O. Russell's "American Hustle" won the Screen Actors Guild award for outstanding cast, setting up the con-artist comedy as the film to beat at the Academy Awards.

"American Hustle" won the 20th annual SAG Awards' top honor over the much-acclaimed historical drama "12 Years a Slave" at Saturday night's Shrine Auditorium ceremony in Los Angeles. Because actors make up the largest branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the SAG Awards are considered one of the most predictive indicators of the Oscars.

Academy Award nominations on Thursday seemed to set up a trio of favorites, heaping 10 nods on "American Hustle" and "Gravity," and nine on "12 Years a Slave." But even though no actor was individually honored by SAG for "American Hustle," the Abscam tale now seems to have an edge over its Oscar rivals.

Speaking for a cast that includes Amy Adams, Christian Bale and Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper credited Russell as the epitome of the actor's director.

"He makes you feel like you're part of the family, whether you're Robert DeNiro or you're Patty Mack," said Cooper. "You are part of the family."

Saturday's awards were a somewhat low-key affair with a few memorable speeches but no earthquakes in a rapidly solidifying award season. The night's acting winners—Matthew McConaughey ("Dallas Buyers Club"), Cate Blanchett ("Blue Jasmine"), Lupita Nyong'o ("12 Years a Slave") and Jared Leto ("Dallas Buyers Club")—are each probably the favorites of their categories.

"It really shines a great light on this bull ride we call acting," said McConaughey, honored for

lead actor in the Texas HIV drama. "I've been able to recently find some characters that I can humble myself to their humanities and get feverishly drunk on their obsessions."

One of the night's biggest winners was Nyong'o, who won supporting actress over Lawrence. Though "12 Years a Slave" is only her feature film debut, the Kenyan actress was been hailed for her red-carpet grace this awards season. Her speech was both composed and emotional.

She thanked McQueen "for taking a flashlight and shining it underneath the floorboards of this nation and reminding us what it is we stand on." And she recalled the celebratory phone call to her father when she got the part.

"Daddy, do you know who Brad Pitt is? I'm going to be in a movie with him!" recalled Nyong'o. "And he said, 'I don't know him personally, but I'm glad you got a job.'"

Leto was honored for supporting actor for playing the gaunt transsexual Rayon, alongside McConaughey's Texas cowboy in "Dallas Buyers Club." He dedicated the award to those who have died of AIDS and to "the Rayons of the world."

His co-star's speech was one of the more energetic of the evening. McConaughey rhapsodized about the glory of acting like it was space travel: "It feels like they could put a blindfold on you and put you in a spaceship and take you to Neptune and you could hop off on the planet and they better have the sprockets rolling when you get off that spaceship because you are going to behave as your man."

When Blanchett, honored for her undone socialite in Woody Allen's drama, saw her speech time quickly expiring, she remarked: "29 seconds? Matthew

McConaughey spoke about NEPTUNE."

The "Breaking Bad" victory lap continued as the show took honors for outstanding dramatic cast and for lead actor Bryan Cranston. For his indelible performance as teacher-turned-meth dealer, Cranston added his second lead actor SAG Award, to go with his recent Golden Globe win and his numerous Emmys.

"We have the nicest bunch of white supremacist Nazis I have ever worked with," said Cranston, looking over his former cast mates. "I swear to you I would kill you all over again."

Two big-screen veterans won awards for TV films: Michael Douglas for HBO's Liberace drama "Behind the Candelabra," and Helen Mirren for the biopic "Phil Spector," also on HBO.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus has been a mainstay at award shows recently, both for her acclaimed HBO series "Veep" (for which she won an Emmy) and the romantic comedy "Enough Said" (for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe). She won a SAG trophy for female actor in a comedy series for "Veep," and slyly mocked the award season crush by first thanking the Hollywood Foreign Press and then the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

"It's hard you know because it's awards season and things get confusing, much like elections," said Louis-Dreyfus. It's the sixth SAG Award for the former "Seinfeld" star, whose "Enough Said" co-star James Gandolfini was nominated posthumously for his supporting performance.

The ABC sitcom "Modern Family" enjoyed another round of awards, winning for ensemble in a comedy series and taking the male actor in a comedy series honor for Ty Burrell.

SAG and the academy don't always agree. Of the five out-

standing cast nominees, neither "August: Osage County" nor "The Butler" ("Dallas Buyers Club" joined them) were nominated for best picture, and "The Butler" was snubbed entirely. The effects-heavy, sparsely peopled "Gravity" was predictably overlooked by SAG, except for an actress nomination to Sandra Bullock.

The SAG outstanding cast awards have lined up with Oscar best-picture winners, including "Argo," "The King's Speech," "Slumdog Millionaire" and "No Country for Old Men." But SAG diverged in the past with picks like "The Help," "Inglourious Basterds" and "Little Miss Sunshine." The actors did foretell one of the biggest Oscar upsets in 2005, choosing "Crash" over "Brokeback Mountain."

Emma Thompson, a surprise snub in Thursday's Oscar nominations for the "Mary Poppins" making-of tale "Saving Mr. Banks," was just as much the witty, winning award-show attendee she's been all season. As a presenter, the lead actress nominee noted the show's cheesy elevator music soundtrack: "Is this music available on CD?"

SAG's lifetime achievement award was given to Rita Moreno, the 81-year-old "West Side Story" actress whose career has spanned Broadway, television and music. Introduced by Morgan Freeman, the much-honored Latina legend danced to the podium before a standing ovation and let out a gleeful expletive.

"I hope the man with the button was there," she said. (He was.)

Moreno serenaded the SAG audience with a few bars from "This Is All I Ask":

"And let the music play/ As long as there's a song to sing/ And I will stay younger than spring."

the guest's preference, grated Grana Padano cheese.

"We want to introduce the real authentic *al dente* dish to our customers and guests around the world. We want to show them the authenticity of making a simple spaghetti dish," said Colombo.

He said Giovanni's way of making Italian cuisine tends to lean toward the country's northern part. Italy is divided into 20 regions and each region

has its own cuisine. Giovanni's represents a lighter way of making Italian food, which he said appeal to the Asian palate.

"As much as possible we want to maintain the freshness of the ingredients and the quality. This [International Day of Italian Cuisine] is an opportunity for people [of Saipan] to see original, authentic flavor of Italy at Giovanni's."

For reservations, call Hyatt at 234-1234.

Madonna apologizes for racial slur

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Madonna apologized Saturday for using a racial slur on Instagram to refer to her white son, seeking forgiveness a day after calling those who criticized her language "haters."

On Friday night, the singer posted a picture of her 13-year-old son, Rocco, boxing and included the comment, "No one messes with Dirty Soap! Mama said knock you out!" She then added a variation of a word used as a racial epithet.

She quickly deleted the comment when outraged Instagram users berated her for the use of the word, and was initially defiant. But in a statement to The Associated Press on Saturday, a contrite Madonna said: "Forgive me."

"I am sorry if I offended anyone with my use of the N word on Instagram. It was not meant as a racial slur. I am not a rac-

ist. There's no way to defend the use of the word. It was all about intention," she said. "It was used as a term of endearment toward my son who is white. I appreciate that it's a provocative word and I apologize if it gave people the wrong impression."

Besides Rocco, she has three other children, including Lourdes, David and Mercy. Mercy and David are black, adopted from the African nation of Malawi.

This is the second time this year that Madonna has offended people on Instagram. Earlier this month, she posted a photo of Rocco and his two young friends holding up bottles of liquor; she defended the post as a joke.

"No one was drinking we were just having fun! Calm down and get a sense of humor! Don't start the year off with judgement!" she responded on Instagram.

Japan's last WWII straggler dies at 91

TOKYO (AP)—Hiroo Onoda, the last Japanese imperial soldier to emerge from hiding in a jungle in the Philippines and surrender, 29 years after the end of World War II, has died. He was 91.

Onoda died Thursday at a Tokyo hospital after a brief stay there. Chief government spokesman Yoshihide Suga on Friday expressed his condolences, praising Onoda for his strong will to live and indomitable spirit.

"After World War II, Mr. Onoda lived in the jungle for many years and when he returned to Japan, I felt that finally, the war was finished. That's how I felt," Suga said.

Onoda was an intelligence officer who came out of hiding, erect but emaciated, in fatigues patched many times over, on Lubang island in the Philippines in March 1974, on his 52nd birthday. He surrendered only when his former commander flew there to reverse his 1945 orders to stay behind and spy on American troops.

Onoda and another World War II holdout, Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi, who emerged from the jungle in 1972, received massive heroes' welcomes upon returning home.

Before and during the war, Japanese were taught absolute loyalty to the nation and the emperor. Soldiers in the



In this May 20, 1996 file photo, former Japanese straggler Hiroo Onoda holds a picture of himself, taken for the first time when he came out of hiding from the jungle, during a news conference upon arrival in Manila, Philippines, for a sentimental journey.

Imperial Army observed a code that said death was preferable to surrender.

Onoda refused to give up, de-

spite at least four searches during which family members appealed to him over loudspeakers and flights dropped leaflets urg-

ing him to surrender.

In his formal surrender to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Onoda wore his 30-year-old imperial army uniform, cap and sword, all still in good condition.

After the initial sensation of his return home wore off, Onoda bought a ranch in Brazil. He later was head of a children's nature school in northern Japan.

"I don't consider those 30 years a waste of time," Onoda said in a 1995 interview with The Associated Press. "Without that experience, I wouldn't have my life today."

Still, he showed a great zeal for making up for years lost.

"I do everything twice as fast so I can make up for the 30 years," Onoda said. "I wish someone could eat and sleep for me so I can work 24 hours a day."

The son of a teacher, Onoda worked for a Japanese trading firm in Shanghai after finishing high school in 1939. Three years later, he was drafted and trained at a military academy.

Helen Mirren earns Harvard's Hasty Pudding award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren said that given her love of pudding of all kinds, she's thrilled to be named woman of the year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

"How very saucy of the Hasty Pudding organisation to offer me their award," Mirren said in a statement issued with Friday's announcement of her award. "As someone who adores pudding in all its manifestations ... suet, Christmas, treacle, bread and butter, Yorkshire, plum, figgy, etc., etc., I am so looking forward to the famous Hasty Pudding."

Hasty Pudding Theatricals is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe, dating to the late 18th century. Its awards are presented annually to performers who have made a lasting and impressive contribution to entertainment.

Mirren, 68, won the 2007 best-actress Oscar for her role as Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen." She has been nominated on three other occasions. She has also appeared in "The Long Good Friday," "Gosford Park" and "The Madness of King George." She was also named Dame of the British Empire in 2003.

She is being honored for the international recognition she has earned for her work on stage, screen and television, the troupe said.

Mirren will be honored with a parade and roast and given her ceremonial pudding pot at Harvard on Jan. 30. The man of the year will be named later.

Teenager's taxi service has a disgruntled rider

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a high school senior. At the beginning of the school year, I agreed to drive my best friend to school in the mornings, and for a while it was nice.

Last month she started to refuse to talk while I was driving. If I tried talking to her, she wouldn't respond. She recently told her boyfriend (who she texts constantly while riding with me) that she didn't like my driving. I found out because of a post he made on Facebook. When I asked her about it, she said that morning I had slammed on the brakes and it scared her.

This has made me tense and stressed out in the mornings, and I want to stop driving her. My grandmother says I should stick it out instead of causing friction. My mom thinks I should stop driving her, but only if she can find another ride.

I tried to explain this to her, but she won't listen and I'm still stuck with her. This has ruined our relationship. I feel like she hates me, but I don't know what to do about any of it. Help!

DRIVEN CRAZY IN FLORIDA

DEAR DRIVEN CRAZY: Your former best friend may have stopped talking to you on the way to school because she was too busy texting her boyfriend. She is ignoring the fact that you have been doing her the favor of transporting her and is using you as a private taxi service.

If she was frightened because you braked suddenly, the person she should have said it to was YOU. So stop "explaining" to her and TELL her that if she wants to continue getting a free ride, she had better adjust her attitude or make other arrangements for transportation.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, the mother of a toddler, just had twins. We live four hours away, so I stayed with them for a few weeks to help her and her husband adjust to their larger family. It taught me a lot about how to help new mothers who are feeling overwhelmed.

It's not about holding the babies; everyone wants to do that. Instead, if you really want to help tired parents, do one of the following:

■ Take the older children to the park, the library, the zoo, to a diner for breakfast. Keep them happy and safe, and bring them home worn out.

■ Bring dinner or takeout when visiting. Wash, dry and fold the laundry. Get the kids ready for bed, give them their baths, read books to them and wait until they are asleep to leave.

■ Clean the house, run the vacuum, empty the garbage and change the beds. Buy groceries (the basics), including paper goods, and grab a box of gallon plastic bags, masking tape and Sharpies (to date frozen foods).

The gift of your time is ever so much more helpful than cute baby outfits that are quickly outgrown. Thanks, Abby!

PROUD GRANDMA IN NEW YORK

DEAR PROUD GRANDMA: My warm congratulations on the new additions to your family. Your daughter is a lucky woman. Your letter should be clipped and saved by anyone who is looking forward to grandparenthood because it is a classic.

■■■

DEAR READERS: Today we celebrate the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the visionary civil rights leader who was assassinated in 1968. Many of his words ring as true today as when they were first spoken.

The quote I have in mind as I write this is, "All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face-to-face with another problem." It applies to many aspects of life.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

First black female since 2007 makes 'SNL' debut

NEW YORK (AP)—Sasheer Zamata made a low-key but notable debut on "Saturday Night Live" as the first black female cast member since 2007.

As usual for a "SNL" newcomer, Zamata kept a low profile on Saturday's broadcast.



Zamata

She participated in sketches in roles including Rihanna and a teenager at a slumber party.

The 27-year-old comedian and improv performer was signed earlier this month in the wake of

criticism of "SNL" for its lack of

ethnic diversity. Black male cast members Kenan Thompson and Jay Pharoah were among those voicing complaints last fall.

The NBC series has had only four black women cast members in its 39 seasons. The most recent was Maya Rudolph. The biracial actress left in 2007.

The show has also recently hired two black female writers.

Tamela Mann tops Stellar Awards with 7 wins

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Tamela Mann has won seven awards including top honor artist of the year at the Stellar Gospel Music Awards.

Mann broke down in tears as she spoke with the audience during the 29th annual ceremony at Municipal Auditorium

in Nashville, Tennessee. She also won major awards female vocalist and CD of the year for "Best Days."

Kirk Franklin's "Take Me to the King" was named song of the year, Tye Tribbett took male vocalist of the year and Tasha Cobb won three awards includ-

ing new artist of the year.

Hezekiah Walker and Anthony Brown & Group Therapy matched Cobb with three wins apiece as well.

The two-hour awards were hosted by Sherri Shepherd and Rickey Smiley and broadcast on the Up Network.

Keira Knightley faced with adulthood in 'Laggies'

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Director Lynn Shelton has a great idea for how to market her new film, "Laggies": Put video of Keira Knightley dancing as a sign-spinner on YouTube.

Knightley demonstrates some sweet moves and deft sign-spinning skills in one of the opening scenes of the film, which premiered Friday at the Sundance Film Festival.

The actress plays Megan, a 28-year-old who feels directionless despite her graduate

degree and stable, 12-year relationship. While her friends pursue careers, marriages and babies, Megan stands in front of her dad's tax office, dancing around with a sign that says "tax advice" in an attempt to drum up business.

"It makes me happy every time I see it," Shelton said, adding that she's sure video of Knightley's routine would "go viral" online.

When Megan's boyfriend proposes, she panics. She befriends a teenage girl (Chloe

Grace Moretz) and hides out at her house, where she's intrigued by the girl's single dad (Sam Rockwell).

Shelton, who has had three previous films at Sundance, said the cast was a dream. She said she called the best possible people for the role, and when they all said yes, it was "freaking awesome."

Knightley joked that the three stars had no chemistry.

"We all hated each other," she said. "So it was really, really good acting."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

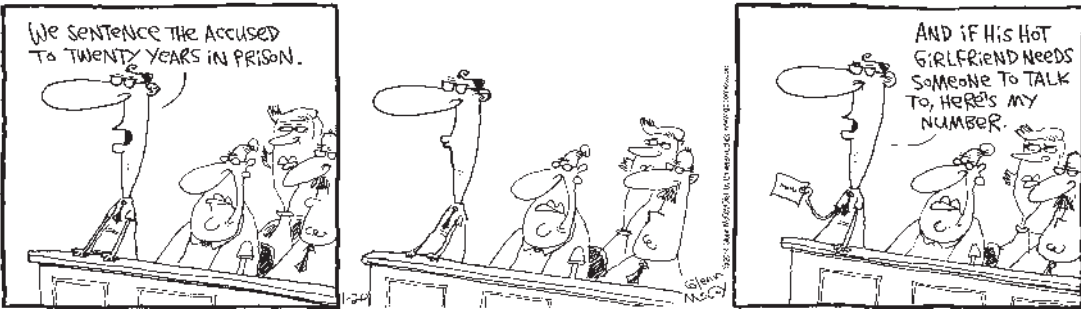
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tack on
4 Fulton's power source
9 Broad-cast overseer (Abbr.)
12 Jane Lynch's "Glee" role
13 Hercules' many-headed foe
14 Web address
15 Newly-weds' vacation
17 Ultra-modernist
18 Pinch
19 Intoxicated
21 Ring around the sun
24 Bizarre (Var.)
25 "The Simpsons" store-keeper
26 Wilde-beest

DOWN

1 Fire island
2 Pair
3 Lair
4 — away from (avoiding)
5 Kettle-drum (Var.)
6 Old name for Tokyo
7 Got up
8 Fireplace shelf
9 1957 Hepburn/Astaire movie
10 Manitoba tribe
11 Lummo-x
16 Music producer Brian
20 Sandwich cookie
21 Concern
22 Tournam-ent format
23 Magna Carta site
27 Boom times
29 Hoodlum
30 Foolproof
32 Unload
34 Ocean floors
37 "The — Cometh"
39 Like marl
42 Sun-dried brick
44 Science work-place
45 Italy's silhouette
46 Loosen
50 Present
51 Sprite
52 Writer
53 Gratuity

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 1-20

C	B	S	G	U	S	P	E	A	R	L
R	A	P	A	F	E	R	O	G	U	E
O	R	C	M	E	T	R	O	N	O	M
N	E	E	D	N	A	S	E	E	D	
A	T	A	L	L		P	U	C	K	S
M	E	T	A	L	S	B	A	T		
P	E	E	N		U	S	E	Z	A	N
M	E	T	A	P	H	O	R	S		
O	M	A	N	I	P	E	A	R	E	N
T	U	N	I	C	F	E	R		F	E

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stacey Dash, 47; Rainn Wilson, 48; Bill Maher, 58; David Lynch, 68.

Happy Birthday: Don't hold back when it comes to your status, reputation and professional advancement. Protect your image and your position by taking charge of whatever situation you face and making things happen. Show off your strength and you will mask any weakness you may possess. Time is on your side, so slow down, prepare carefully and present what you have to offer. Your numbers are 3, 14, 16, 23, 32, 39, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Revisit your resolution and reconfigure what you need to do to reach your goal this year. Don't let other people's agendas take precedence over yours. Put yourself first. Don't let uncertainty mess with your mind. Stick to your game plan. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You know what you must do. Don't wait for others to do things for you. Take the initiative and reap the rewards. Don't stand in the background when you belong in the forefront. Reconnect with someone important. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be offered an opportunity. Get any deal you receive in writing. Ask questions and present what you have to offer concisely. Disillusionment will be a factor. A move may be required to fulfill an obligation. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make unusual plans that include people you find interesting. Network with peers or experts who can feed you knowledge that will come in handy when you want to make an impression. Aggression should not be used when dealing with an important relationship. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Confront situations that are bothering you. Once you know where you stand, you can make choices and changes. A project at work will allow you to use your creative talent. Diversify and you'll discover you have something lucrative to offer. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you can't get away on vacation, at least take a little time out to regroup. Making a couple of personal improvements or getting involved with someone who inspires you to try new things will help build confidence and optimism. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't hold back. If someone criticizes you, speak up. You have the right to make choices when it comes to people who are supposed to be in your corner. Re-evaluate your relationships with others. Avoid overbearing people. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stifle anyone trying to come between you and your plans. Greater opportunities will develop if you taper down your needs and form alliances with people who share your values. Consider personal updates and compliments will follow. A love relationship may need fine-tuning. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional deception is present. Whether it's you or someone else giving the false impression, it must not be allowed to influence important decisions. Ask questions and try to be as honest as possible when offering answers and information. **

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put money deals on display and see who shows interest. Don't let anger stop you from closing a deal. You may think something is worth more than it is. Make an adjustment and cut your losses. Self-improvement will pay off. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen carefully and you will discover information that can help you make a good investment. Be prepared to act fast and to keep moving. Timing will be critical if you want to get ahead. A personal partnership will undergo a change. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your intuition help you decipher what's happening and what you should do. An opportunity will crop up if you network with peers or financially savvy people. Listen carefully and you will make a profit. Emotions will be difficult to control. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, clever and straightforward. You are responsible and reliable. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

3		1	5		4	6	8
		9			4		
5	6					2	3
1				7			5
				9	5	8	
6				1			2
8	3					6	9
		6				2	
9		5	3		2	8	1

Difficulty Level ★ 1/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	5	2	1	3	4	6	7
4	3	7	9	6	8	5	2	1
1	6	2	7	4	5	9	8	3
6	9	4	5	2	7	1	3	8
2	5	3	8	9	1	7	4	6
8	7	1	6	3	4	2	5	9
3	1	8	4	5	9	6	7	2
7	4	6	1	8	2	3	9	5
5	2	9	3	7	6	8	1	4

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MIRROR, MIRROR Solution: 10 letters

H	D	S	E	H	D	T	D	E	N	T	A	L	Y
B	A	R	D	L	C	O	E	R	E	M	A	R	F
T	A	I	E	N	P	N	O	S	D	D	R	I	V
C	S	T	R	S	A	T	A	K	I	O	N	R	S
C	O	U	H	D	S	T	E	R	P	G	U	E	T
H	L	A	J	R	R	I	S	C	A	U	N	B	Y
F	N	E	O	D	O	E	N	M	D	E	R	F	L
G	O	U	A	N	A	O	S	G	S	E	P	S	E
H	N	G	I	N	E	P	M	S	A	E	K	P	E
D	O	S	G	B	T	M	A	K	E	U	P	O	A
E	A	L	L	Y	A	I	O	N	E	R	V	A	O
C	E	C	D	G	T	S	Q	H	E	E	O	A	H
O	I	N	I	F	A	C	E	U	A	L	K	O	N
R	A	C	O	M	P	A	C	T	E	T	L	I	D
H	C	T	A	R	C	S	H	A	V	E	S	O	B

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Adjust, Angle, Antique, Appearance, Base, Bathroom, Bike, Break, Cars, Casino, Clean, Compact, Decor, Dental, Design, Door, Double, Dressing, Drive, Edge, Face, Foggy, Frame, Hairdresser, Hand, Hang, Hats, Hold, Home, Hook, Hotel, Lids, Look, Magic, Magnify, Makeup, Panel, Purse, Rearview, Round, Scratch, Shapes, Shave, Spot, Stands, Store, Style, Vans, Wall

Last Friday's Answer: Librarian

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit wonderword.universalclic.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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EMPLOYMENT

(2) Fishermen, (4) Sales Representatives. Minimum salary. Send Resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950.

2 Online Merchants. Experience w/ resume required. Salary \$5.55/hr. Les Oshiro 233-6970.

1-Tailor or Seamstress. Must have related job experience. Email resume at susansantoscastro@gmail.com

1 Commercial Cleaner. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Pacific Rim International at 234-9351.

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If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to wstcospn@pticom.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Saipan Tribune

Opinion

Focus

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GCA's January forensic winners

More US Catholics take complaints to church court

Two men rob sleeping man at fishing base

Businesses slam 'excessive' \$500 fire re-inspection, \$500 permit fees

Are you ready to Age it?

PICKET ANDROID PLAN \$20

James lifts Heat over Bobcats 104-96 in OT



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The large icepack on LeBron James' right shoulder said it all.

Attempting 25 shots in a game will do that, the four-time MVP said.

James overcame a mid-game shooting slump to score 34 points and help the Miami Heat beat the Charlotte Bobcats for the 15th straight time, 104-96 in overtime Saturday night.

"The game presented itself for me to be aggressive and I was able to shoot a lot. It felt, well... that's why I'm icing my shoulder now," James said with a laugh.

James wasn't laughing much in the second quarter.

After hitting his first five shots from the field, James missed his next nine shots. But he turned that around late in the second half, hitting 8 of 11 shots from the field to close the game, including two driving layups in overtime.

"I came out shooting the ball extremely well and then I just hit a cold streak," James said. "My teammates kept confidence in me and I was able to get it going again."

Chris Bosh added 25 points and seven rebounds for Miami.

It was a costly loss for the Bobcats as starting point guard Kemba Walker sprained his left ankle midway through the third quarter when he stepped on Chris Bosh's foot. He did not return.

Walker left the locker room on crutches and with a boot on his left ankle. X-rays were negative, but coach Steve Clifford said Walker will have an MRI on Sunday to determine the extent of the damage.

"He's going to be out a while," Clifford said.

Ironically, Al Jefferson missed the first two regular season games after he stepped on Bosh's foot in the preseason and turned his ankle.

Without their floor general, the Bobcats didn't stand much of a chance against the Heat.

Jefferson had 22 points to lead the Bobcats, who were playing their fourth game in

five nights.

Jefferson had averaged 29.6 points over the previous three games, but the Heat clamped down on him in the second half and the Bobcats went cold from the field.

"If he can catch it whenever he wants to, there is not much you can do," Bosh said. "We had traps and were able to give him different looks and I think that changed his timing up a little bit and played to our advantage."

The Heat never trailed in overtime.

James' two free throws gave Miami a 98-95 advantage.

After Mario Chalmers blocked Jefferson's put-back try from behind, James then drove to the basket and scored on the right side to push the lead to five with 1:22 left in overtime. He tried the left side on the next possession against Anthony Tolliver and succeed with a driving left-handed layup with 36 seconds remaining to push the lead to six.

Josh McRoberts and Tolliver each had costly turnovers in overtime for the Bobcats, who have lost 10 of their last 13.

The Bobcats led most of the game but the Heat tied the score at 88 when James knocked down a jumper with 5 minutes left in regulation.

But the teams only scored two points apiece in the final 5 minutes of the fourth quarter. Charlotte's Ramon Sessions air-balled a 17-footer as the shot clock expired and James' 18-footer rimmed out at the buzzer, sending the game to overtime.

"I saw some grit," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Our guys were not happy at halftime and wanted to take a lot more pride in our defense and not just be talk but to walk the talk. They did a good job. They had us moving around and were moving the ball and attacking us and getting great looks. The second half there was more of a concentration - not only the effort but a discipline."

Ray Allen started in place of Dwayne Wade, who rested his knee after scoring eight points



Miami Heat's LeBron James, top, drives past Charlotte Bobcats' Al Jefferson, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014.

in the Heat's win Friday night at Philadelphia. Allen got the Heat started strong with a reverse layup and a drive down the lane to build an early 9-2 lead and finished with 12 points and nine rebounds.

Greg Oden played in his second game since returning from a long layoff and looked plenty rusty with one point and three fouls in seven minutes.

Despite the loss, Clifford said he felt good about his team's effort.

"We played a good game," Clifford said. "I feel like we're getting back to fighting, defending and staying in games. Hopefully that will help us going forward."

Pacers 106, Clippers 92

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 36 points and Lance Stephenson added 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead Indiana to its fourth straight win, all by double digits.

The Pacers, though, missed a

chance to win four in a row by 20 or more points for the first time in franchise history. Indiana retained the league's top record and improved to 21-1 at home before heading West for a five-game road trip.

Jamal Crawford scored 22 points for the Clippers, who had their five-game winning streak snapped. Blake Griffin had 19 points and DeAndre Jordan added 12 points and 17 rebounds.

Timberwolves 98, Jazz 72

In Minneapolis, Nikola Pekovic had 27 points and 14 rebounds in three quarters to lead Minnesota.

Kevin Love had 18 points, 13 rebounds and five assists, and Kevin Martin scored 20 points to help the Timberwolves snap a three-game losing streak that included losses to Sacramento and Toronto. The Wolves scored 28 points off 16 Utah turnovers and outscored the Jazz 50-18 in the paint for a

much-needed blowout.

Alec Burks scored 18 points for the Jazz, who trailed by as many as 36 points and shot 28.8 percent, the worst shooting night in franchise history. Derrick Favors had eight points and 10 boards, but was just 3 for 10 from the field.

Warriors 97, Pelicans 87

In New Orleans, Stephen Curry scored 28 points, David Lee added 22 and Golden State sent New Orleans to its eighth straight loss.

Anthony Davis had 31 points and 17 rebounds in his seventh straight game with more than 20 points, but that was only enough to keep the Pelicans competitive into the final minutes.

Andrew Bogut had 10 points and 15 rebounds for Golden State, which rebounded from a loss a night earlier in Oklahoma City and snapped a two-game skid. Jordan Crawford added 10 points.

Tyreke Evans scored 14 points in his return to the Pelicans after missing three games with a left ankle sprain. Al-Farouq Aminu added 12 points, but the Pelicans were doomed by 13-of-39 shooting in the second half, during which they scored only 33 points.

Rockets 114, Bucks 104

In Houston, Terrence Jones had a career-high 36 points and 11 rebounds, and Houston led from the start.

Jones had 25 points by halftime, matching his previous career-best set on Wednesday, and James Harden added 22 points.

Houston led by 17 points before the Bucks got within six points in the third quarter. The Rockets responded with a big run to extend the lead and hold on for the victory.

Brandon Knight scored 26 points with seven assists for the NBA-worst Bucks, who have dropped eight in a row.

Bulls 103, 76ers 78

In Chicago, Joakim Noah had 21 points and 16 rebounds, Carlos Boozer added 15 points and 13 boards, and Chicago won for the seventh time in nine games this month.

Noah extended his streak of double-digit rebound games to 12, the longest stretch of his career.

D.J. Augustin scored nine points and dished out seven assists in the pivotal second quarter, in which Chicago extended its lead from five to 20. He finished with 19 points and eight assists.

Only three 76ers scored in double digits, Thaddeus Young leading the way with 12 points. James Anderson had 11 points and seven rebounds for Philadelphia, which has dropped six of seven.

Pistons 104, Wizards 98

In Washington, Josh Smith overcame a slow start to score 22 points and Rodney Stuckey added 20 to lead Detroit.

Greg Monroe had 12 points and 10 rebounds and Andre Drummond added 10 points and a game-high 13 boards as the Pistons outrebounded the Wizards 44-35.

John Wall scored 34 points, including Washington's last 10, as the Wizards snapped a three-game winning streak and failed to move past .500 for the first time in more than four years. It was the third time this year they lost at home with a chance to get over the .500 mark.

Trail blazers 127, Mavericks 111

In Dallas, LaMarcus Aldridge had 30 points and 12 rebounds, and Portland ran past Dallas for its fifth straight win.

Aldridge, a 28-year-old Dallas native, had his 24th double-double this season.

The NBA's highest-scoring team reached 30 points in the first quarter for the 14th time in 2013-14, and 100 points in three quarters for the fourth time.

Nicolas Batum scored 21 for the Trail Blazers. Robin Lopez added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Dirk Nowitzki had 18 points for the Mavericks, who had won four of their previous five games.

Devin Harris played 17 minutes and scored six points in his first game this season following toe surgery.

Rodman checks into rehab center

By **DAN GELSTON**
AP SPORTS WRITER

Dennis Rodman has checked into an undisclosed alcohol rehabilitation center to treat his long-time struggle with alcoholism, his agent says.

Darren Prince declined on Saturday to say which facility will treat Rodman and how long he will be there. Rodman recently returned to the United States from his latest trip to North Korea.

He later apologized for comments he made in North Ko-

rea about a detained American missionary, saying he had been drinking and was under pressure as he organized an exhibition game there. He also sang "Happy Birthday" to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the start of the friendly game.

"What was potentially a historic and monumental event turned into a nightmare for everyone concerned," Prince said. "Dennis Rodman came back from North Korea in pretty rough shape emotionally. The pressure that was put on him to be a combination 'super human'

political figure and 'fixer' got the better of him.

"He is embarrassed, saddened and remorseful for the anger and hurt his words have caused."

Rodman won five NBA championships with the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls and was one of the NBA's fiercest rebounders and most colorful personalities. Detroit selected Rodman in the second round of the 1986 draft out of Southeastern Oklahoma. The native of Trenton, N.J., also played for Chicago, San An-

tonio, the Los Angeles Lakers and Dallas. He was enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in 2011.

He stamped his name on "Dennis Rodman—The original Bad Ass Premium Vodka," late last year. It was in the works before his relations with North Korea, but has taken off since.

Rodman, known as much for his piercings, tattoos and bad behavior as he was for basketball, was the highest-profile American to meet Kim since Kim inherited power from father Kim Jong Il in 2011. He traveled to the secretive state for the first time last February with

the Harlem Globetrotters for an HBO series produced by New York-based VICE television.

But the 52-year-old Rodman has been denounced for not trying to use his influence with Kim to secure the release of Kenneth Bae, an American missionary with health problems who is being held in North Korea on charges of "anti-state" crimes.

He organized a group of retired NBA players to travel to North Korea for that exhibition game. Rodman dedicated the contest to his "best friend" Kim, who along with his wife and other senior officials and

their wives watched from a special seating area. The capacity crowd of about 14,000 at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium clapped loudly as Rodman sang a verse from the song.

Rodman had an angry meltdown before the game on CNN, defending his decision to travel to North Korea.

"People forget Dennis is just an entertainer and retired NBA star," Prince said. "The fact remains that a basketball game was played in North Korea live in front of 14,000 people and hundreds of millions around the world viewed clips of the game."

Brady faces Manning once more with SB on line



DENVER (AP)—Only one of them can be the greatest.

Peyton Manning could be the one—owner of a record four, working on five, Most Valuable Player awards, current holder of NFL single-season records for passing yardage and touchdowns and architect of a career-reviving second act, the likes of which has rarely been seen in any sport.

Tom Brady could also be that man—leader of five Super Bowl teams and winner of three titles, one-time holder of some of the records Manning holds now and author of an undefeated regular season. He also has that 10-4 record against Manning despite constant turnover on his roster and a lack of a star-studded receiving corps.

Manning and Brady will meet Sunday for the 15th time, and the fourth time in the postseason, when the Broncos (14-3) face the Patriots (13-4) in the AFC title game.

The winner between the top two quarterbacks over an era in which quarterbacks have never been so good will get what could be the last say in the debate over who goes down as the greatest—not so much because of what the win-loss numbers will say but because this could be the last time they meet with the stakes so high.

“I don’t know that there will ever be another rivalry like it, or has been a rivalry like it,” said John Elway, whose own rivalry with Dan Marino was held to only three meetings because of scheduling quirks over their decade-plus careers.

The game will either give Brady a chance to match Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw for a fourth title or afford Manning the opportunity to win a second ring, which would put

Former NFL star Sharper arrested in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former NFL star defensive back Darren Sharper has been arrested on suspicion of rape, the Los Angeles Police Department said.

Sharper, who played 14 seasons in the NFL with Green Bay, Minnesota and New Orleans, was arrested and booked Friday and released on \$200,000 bail

just before midnight. He faces a Feb. 14 court appearance.

LAPD said it is investigating Sharper in connection with two sexual assaults that occurred in October and earlier this month in the West Los Angeles area.

New Orleans Police Department spokeswoman Remi Braden said Saturday in a statement that NOPD is also

investigating an allegation of sexual assault filed against Sharper on Sept. 24.

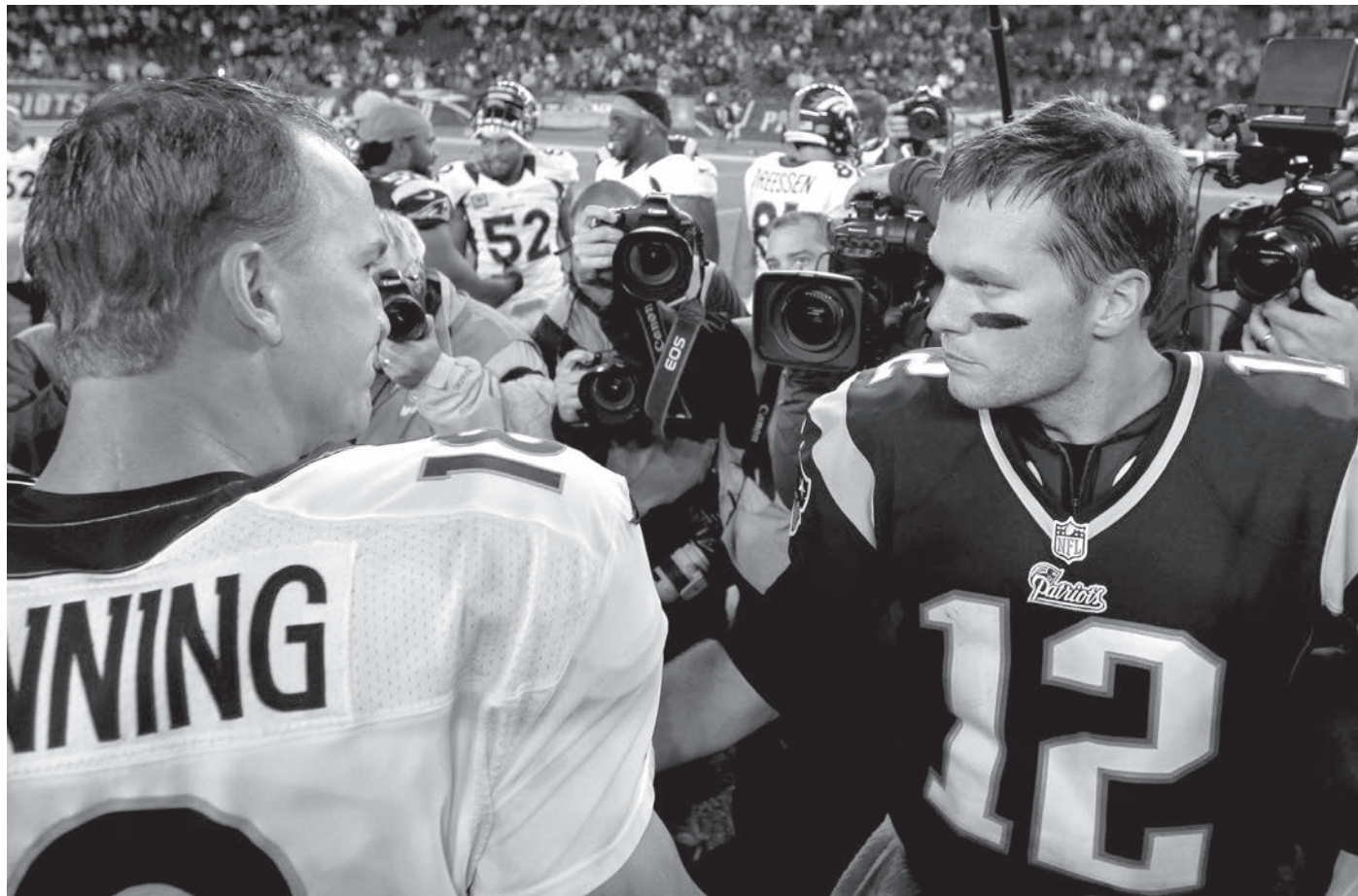
Sharper, 38, played in the NFL from 1997-2010, mostly with the Packers. He retired after the 2010 season.

Sharper was selected All-Pro six times and chosen for the Pro Bowl five times. He played in two Super Bowls,

one with the Packers as a rookie and a second with the Saints after the 2009 season.

He has been working as an analyst for the NFL Network.

“Darren has been suspended without pay until further notice, effective immediately,” said Alex Riethmiller, spokesman for NFL Network, in an email Saturday.



In this Oct. 7, 2012, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning, left, and New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, right, speak in the middle of the field after the Patriots beat the Broncos 31-21 in an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass.

him one behind Brady, and in the same company with his brother, Eli, Roger Staubach and Elway, among others. It would also make Manning the first QB to win championships with two different teams.

While paying ultimate respect to each other—“I feel like he’s been a better player each year than he was the year before,” Manning said—neither quarterback professes to care much about how their own

head-to-head showdowns will define their legacy.

Don’t believe it, says Phil Simms, who admits in retirement that the smile was a little wider after he walked off the field with a win over a Staubach

or Joe Theismann.

“It’s always personal, no matter what,” Simms said. “It’s part of being a competitor and doing what you do.”

One reason Brady has a .714 win percentage in the head-to-head meetings and also holds a 2-1 advantage in the playoffs is because, more often than not, he’s been surrounded by the more complete team.

He has been anything but a one-man show in New England this season, illustrated best by the fact that the Patriots are in the AFC title game even though Brady threw for 25 touchdowns—less than half of Manning’s record-setting 55.

Without Rob Gronkowski, Aaron Hernandez or Wes Welker to throw to, Brady made it work, with a big assist from head coach Bill Belichick and offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, who used to coach the Broncos.

New England’s running game, led by LeGarrette Blount and Shane Vereen, has averaged 214 yards the last three games. Brady’s 75 passes over the last three games are the fewest of any three-game stretch in his career.

Welker, who played with Brady for six years before com-

ing to Denver this season, says it’s not so much stats or physical attributes that defines these two Hall-of-Fame quarterbacks.

“They do a great job of keeping guys accountable, and their leadership skills and everything else,” he said. “They are two guys you want quarterbacking your team. It’s a toss-up between those two.”

Manning has thrown for 92 touchdowns since arriving in Denver at the start of the 2012 season, his neck rebuilt from multiple surgeries, his future uncertain because of his weakened throwing arm.

He’d be the first to admit he’s not the same as he once was, physically. But nobody prepares better.

His record-setting 5,477 yards and all those touchdown throws came with a gifted group of offensive stars surrounding him - Welker, Eric Decker, Demaryius Thomas and this season’s difference maker, 6-foot-5 tight end Julius Thomas. But Manning had great players around him in Indianapolis, as well, and never put up these sort of numbers.

“Honestly, no one will probably ever break that, not in this day and age,” former Broncos receiver Rod Smith said.

On Sunday, Brady, who missed parts of practice early in the week with the flu, will be going against a depleted secondary that just lost cornerback Chris Harris Jr., which will make Champ Bailey—injured most of the season—a bigger cog for the Denver ‘D.’

And the Patriots will likely invite the Broncos to run- much the way they did in their 34-31 overtime loss in Week 12—knowing the best chance of beating them is by taking the ball out of Manning’s hands.

This 60 minutes (or more), their first title-game meeting since Manning’s 38-34 comeback win en route to his first Super Bowl in 2007, could mark the last time the top two QBs of their—or any—era meet for these stakes.

Brady is 36 and, though relatively healthy, he has taken a beating over his career. Some say the Patriots, their roster decimated by injuries, defections and the arrest of Hernandez, got this far on smoke and mirrors this season. How much longer can they hold things together at a championship level?

And Manning? He is 37 and his future will largely depend on how his neck looks when doctors examine it during the offseason. The Broncos, meanwhile, are built to win right now, and have made it this far despite a rash of injuries on both sides of the ball.

No guarantees about the future. “They’re thinking about it during the week,” Simms said. “When they play, they play. But when it’s over, one of them will go, ‘Yep, I got him again.’”

Sheriff: Hernandez separated for his own safety

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
AP SPORTS WRITER

Former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez can’t watch football on TV for his own safety, the sheriff in charge of the prison said on Saturday.

“When somebody with any kind of fame comes in, there are already wise guys who try to improve their own stature by hurting him,” Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson told The Associated Press. “We don’t want to have any problems.”

Hernandez has been held without bail at the Bristol County House of Correction in North Dartmouth, Mass., since he was charged in June with the murder of Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old semi-pro football player. The Patriots released him on the day he was arrested.

Hodgson said this week that Hernandez won’t be able to watch his former teammates play in the AFC Championship game against the Denver Broncos because he isn’t allowed to watch TV at all. The sheriff said on Saturday that Hernandez is kept separated from the other inmates under “special management” because of his fame.

“My job is care and custody. First and foremost, we have to be concerned about the safety of the inmate and the officers,” Hodgson said. “I can’t put this guy in a vulnerable situation where there are people who would like to prove they’re more important” by hurting Hernandez.

Hodgson said the decision to keep Hernandez separate was made when the former NFL star first arrived at the prison. He is only allowed

outside of his cell three hours a day, and never at the same time as other inmates.

“I’ve spoken to him about it, and he understands it,” Hodgson said. “I’m not going to tell you that he enjoys it all the time.”

Hernandez is different from the other inmates in special management because he is still awaiting trial. Most of the others in the separate unit were in the general population before losing privileges due to bad behavior.

“Of course, we recognize that everyone’s innocent until proven guilty,” Hodgson said. “But also a judge doesn’t feel like you’re able to be in the community on bail. I don’t make those decisions to send people to our institution, but when they get there, I have a responsibility to make sure they’re safe, they’re fed.”

Unlike those who have lost their privileges, Hernandez is allowed access to the prison commissary, Hodgson said. But it wouldn’t be safe to have a TV in the unit.

“He does get some privileges that the others don’t because he is a pretrial detainee,” Hodgson said. “There are times when he’s asked for a TV. But we can’t have a television in the unit he’s housed in. That would be looked upon by the other individuals in the unit as a special privilege and create animosity.”

Hodgson said the decision to separate Hernandez from the general population is reassessed periodically.

“He knows that I’m looking out for his welfare,” the sheriff said. “It’s not the ideal situation. It’s jail.”

“It’s a delicate situation.”

Ivanovic ends Williams’ streak in Australian upset



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The powerful serve that carried Serena Williams to 25 consecutive wins suddenly became the target of Ana Ivanovic’s attack in a major fourth-round upset at the Australian Open.

Williams had a back complaint she’d tried to keep secret before Sunday but Ivanovic noticed quickly that the best serve in women’s tennis wasn’t coming in as fast as expected, and started taking big swipes.

The No. 14-seeded Ivanovic ended Williams’ bid for a sixth Australian and 18th Grand Slam title with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory that took the hottest of favorites out of contention at Melbourne Park and opened up one side of the women’s draw.

“It’s not easy playing such a champion ... but she is also just a human,” said Ivanovic, who beat Venus Williams in the final at Auckland, New Zealand earlier this month. “I just went out there swinging.”

Williams hadn’t lost a match since August, and had a phenomenal record of 78-4 in 2013. She came into the fourth round on the second-longest winning

streak of her career, and it was her 70th match at Melbourne Park, a record in the Open era. Williams set the mark for most match wins (61) ever at the Australian Open with her third-round victory.

But she didn’t move her feet well. And when she tried to step up the intensity in the third set, her grunts becoming louder until she toned it down after spraying a wild backhand in the next-to-last game, Ivanovic matched her stroke for stroke.

“It wasn’t the best,” top-ranked Williams told a news conference, after hearing that her coach had leaked news of the back injury.

“Again, I don’t want to blame anything. I feel like Ana deserves all the credit,” Williams added. “I feel she played unbelievable today. I think she went for her shots. It’s not like I gave her the match.”

Ivanovic advanced to the quarterfinals here for the first time since her run to the 2008 final and will next play the winner of Sunday’s later match between Australian wild-card entry Casey Dellacqua and No. 30-seeded Eugenie Bouchard.

The other quarterfinal on Ivanovic’s half will feature two



Serena Williams of the U.S. rests on her racket during her fourth round loss to Ana Ivanovic of Serbia at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014.

women who’ll turn 32 next month, after two-time finalist Li Na beat No. 22 Ekaterina Makarova 6-2, 6-0 and No. 28 Flavia Pennetta upset No. 9 Angelique Kerber 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.

Novak Djokovic watched the second and third sets of Ivanovic’s win on TV, then contin-

ued his bid for a fourth straight title here with a 6-3, 6-0, 6-2 win over Fabio Fognini. No. 3-seeded David Ferrer beat Florian Mayer 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-2, 6-1 and will next play No. 7 Tomas Berdych, who beat No. 19 Kevin Anderson 6-2, 6-2, 6-3.

In the 52 previous matches

here where she’d won the first set, Williams had only ever lost one match—against fellow American Sloane Stephens in last year’s quarterfinals.

The crowd was evenly divided at first but, sensing an upset, started backing Ivanovic, the former girlfriend of Australian

golfer Adam Scott, as the match progressed.

After dropping serve twice in the first set, Ivanovic didn’t face another break point in the second or third sets. She broke Williams three times, frequently standing well inside the baseline to receive.

She had 33 winners, including 20 on her forehand. She also had a little bit of luck, when she drove a backhand that deflected off the top of the net, looped over and caught the line.

“I had to remind myself all the time just to stay in the moment, because there were moments in the match where it could have gone either way,” Ivanovic said.

Ivanovic won her only major at the French Open in 2008, giving her the No. 1 ranking for a total of 12 weeks. But since she’d only advanced past the fourth round once at 22 Grand Slams.

“I had to break a spell, fourth round,” Ivanovic said, “and what’s the better place to do it than here against such a champion?”

Williams hit 22 winners but made 31 unforced errors, mostly on her backhand.

“I made a tremendous amount of errors, shots ... I haven’t missed since the ‘80s,” Williams said.

DEFENDING

From Page 28

Zach Reyes, who nailed a two-run single in the second inning.

IT&E 4, Little Legals 3

In the second game, IT&E eked out a close win over the Kagman Little Legals.

Devin (last name was not written on the scoresheet) made the game-winning hit, as his double at the bottom

of the last inning drove home Nathan. Before Devin’s double, the game was tied and IT&E had two outs.

The IT&E-Little Legals game was a neck-and-neck battle, as both teams failed to score no more than one goal in each inning. The Little Legals missed the board in the first two innings, while IT&E got its first run at the bottom of the second off a passed ball. IT&E then bagged two more runs (one earned) in the third and fourth, but could not pull

away from the Little Legals, who scored in the next three innings after a shutout in the first two before going cold anew at the top of the last.

Laolao Bay 14, IP&E Rockies 8

In the third and last game of the day, Laolao Bay capitalized on the erratic IP&E Rockies to win its debut.

Ahead by only two, 4-2, after two complete innings, Laolao Bay took full control of the match beginning in the

third inning when it scored six runs. The visiting team registered five of those six runs off the Rockies’ miscues at the top of the third inning. The Rockies tried to battle back, but go only two runs at the bottom, leaving Laolao Bay with a promising 10-4 advantage.

Laolao went on to drill four more runs off the Rockies’ errors in the last three innings to secure the 6-point win.

Meanwhile, six more teams debuted in the 2014

season of the Major division yesterday. The Braves met the JPO Enforcers in the first match, while Comets II collided against the Hustlers in the second game, and the Red Sox and the Jets dueled in the third tiff.

Today, three more matches will be played at the “Tan Ge” field. The Comets I takes on the Ol’ Aces at 9pm, the GSM Twins meet the Rockies in the second match at 11am, and IT&E challenges Laolao Bay in the last game at 1pm.

PADRES

From Page 28

ven Cabrera and Lancaster Secharmidal. Sablan also reached home after another Braves booboo at second base for the three run lead with no outs. Two more Padres batters connected on their attempts and advanced to second

and third before the Braves stopped the bleeding with Brandon Lieto striking out Jerome Reyes. The Braves then stranded the two Padres runner after catching two fly outs to end the agonizing inning.

Now trailing, the Braves must score at least three runs at the top of the seventh to extend the game, but Lizama,

who relieved Secharmidal at the mound, struck out the first and third batter, while Ray Tenorio and Thomas Reyes teamed up for a 6-3 putout play against Frankie Lieto to give the Padres the victory.

Meanwhile, the Padres-Braves tiff came after the brief opening ceremony that saw the 31 participating squads

joining the traditional parade of teams. The 15 squads from the Major division took the field first, followed by the six teams each from Junior and Senior, and four from the Big League.

The Saipan Southern High School JROTC Manta Ray Battalion then did the presentation of flags, followed

by the ceremonial welcome remarks and speeches. SLLB, Inc. president Tony Rogolifo delivered the welcoming remarks, while Senate President Ralph Torres, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, and CNMI District Administrator Mike Borja also addressed those present at the opening ceremony.

AYUYUS

From Page 28

an upset after choking in the last 59.7 seconds of the game.

Before the collapse, Mt. Carmel managed to tie the game twice, 54-all, and 56-all, after climbing back from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Back-to-back baskets from William Camacho in the last two minutes of the match helped the Knights forced the ties.

However, a putback from Melvin Sakisat off his own miss broke the deadlock, 58-56, going into the last minute of the game and the Knights failed to retaliate in the ensuing helter-skelter plays. Camacho tried to

even up the match anew when he drove to the right baseline, but decided to go for a kick-out pass when he faced a couple of Kagman defenders on his way to the basket. Jonathan Santos intercepted the pass, but Camacho later stole the ball, which the latter eventually gave to Soon Kwon inside the paint. Kwon went on to lose the leather, too as Ayuyus guard Andrew Panlilio came from behind and picked his pocket.

With the Ayuyus now in possession and the clock ticking, the Knights were forced to commit fouls in the ensuing plays and Kagman made four free throws to foil Mt. Carmel’s upset bid. The Knights had several

chances to stay in the game when Kagman failed to hit all its free throws in its six trips from the stripe, but bungled the opportunities as the former either turned the ball over or muffed long shots in the closing seconds.

Jess Santos top-scored in Kagman’s 6-point win, firing 22, including three of the team’s last four free throws, while Jonathan Santos and big man Jason Lampkin chipped in 15 each. Lampkin nailed 8 straight points to start the fourth quarter and gave Kagman a 54-43 lead before Mt. Carmel mounted a comeback midway in the final period.

The Knights played catch up all night as only Camacho tried

to keep the team in the game. He made all but one of Mt. Carmel’s baskets in the first period, which ended with Kagman ahead, 18-10. It was still a Camacho show in the second canto, as only two other Knights players added one field goal apiece, while Kagman had a balance attack to keep the upper hand at the break, 35-29.

In the third, Jesse Santos won the exchange against Camacho, 8-6, but the Knights moved within 3 points, 43-46, as other players started to contribute. Lampkin had only a free throw in the so-so third quarter before redeeming himself early in the fourth with a string of 8 points to threaten a

breakaway, which did not materialize as the Knights kept fighting back before falling apart in the closing minute.

Camacho led Mt. Carmel’s losing cause with his 35 points.

Meanwhile, Kagman also won in the junior varsity game against Saipan International School in the first match last weekend, but official scores were unavailable at press time.

KHS 62 – Je. Santos 22, Jo. Santos 15, Lampkin 15, Sakisat 8, Ada 2.

MCS 56 – Camacho 35, Sablan 11, Evangelista 5, Kwon 4, Amog 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-10, 35-29, 46-43, 62-56.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	18	.526	—
Brooklyn	16	22	.421	4
New York	15	25	.375	6
Boston	14	27	.341	7 1/2
Philadelphia	13	27	.325	8
Southeast Division				
Miami	29	11	.725	—
Atlanta	20	19	.513	8 1/2
Washington	19	20	.487	9 1/2
Charlotte	17	25	.405	13
Orlando	10	30	.250	19
Central Division				
Indiana	32	7	.821	—
Chicago	19	20	.487	13
Detroit	17	23	.425	15 1/2
Cleveland	15	25	.375	17 1/2
Milwaukee	7	32	.179	25
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	31	9	.775	—
Houston	27	15	.643	5
Dallas	24	18	.571	8
Memphis	20	19	.513	10 1/2
New Orleans	15	24	.385	15 1/2
Northwest Division				
Portland	31	9	.775	—
Oklahoma City	30	10	.750	1
Denver	20	19	.513	10 1/2
Minnesota	19	21	.475	12
Utah	14	28	.333	18
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	28	14	.667	—
Golden State	26	16	.619	2
Phoenix	22	17	.564	4 1/2
L.A. Lakers	15	25	.375	12
Sacramento	14	24	.368	12
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

2014 Saipan Little League Baseball Opening

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CNMI Hall of Famer and Rep. Tony Benavente throws the ceremonial pitch to Sen. Ray Yumul to open the action in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball, while Rep. Ray Tebuteb plays catcher last Friday at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Ballfield.



Government officials and other guests sing the CNMI anthem.



Big League champions Padres make their way to the field.



The Braves of the Senior League join the parade with a banner.



The Jets of the Major division run to the field.



The O'Acres of the Major division are joined by one of their coaches during the parade of teams.



The JROTC Manta Ray Battalion gets ready for the presentation of flags.



The JPO Enforcers of the Junior League head to the field.



The Little Legals make their way out of the field.



Saipan Little League, Inc. president Tony Rogilifo delivers the opening remarks, while master of ceremony Bob Coldeen stays close to introduce the next speaker.



James lifts Heat
over Bobcats
104-96 in OT
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Brady faces
Manning once more
with SB on line
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Defending champs prevail in opener



Laolao Bay catcher Tommy Agulto tags out an IP&E Rockies runner during the bottom of the fifth inning of their game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Falcons shut out McDonald's, 13-0, in their early face-off last Saturday in the opening game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Max Pangelinan pitched in no relief for the Falcons and earned nine strikeouts in four innings, giving up only two hits, one walk, and one hit by pitch. With Pangelinan all business on the mound and the rest of his teammates active on defense, McDonald's, which lost to the Falcons in last season's finale, 1-5, did not make it past second base.

Pangelinan also contributed two RBIs with his two-run single at the bottom of the second

inning sparking the Falcons' breakaway. The Falcons got two unearned runs in the first inning for a shaky 2-0 lead and padded the advantage to 9-0 in the second inning. The defending champions got nine earned runs in their early rematch with McDonald's to bag the victory after only three and a half innings.

Duplicating Pangelinan's two RBIs were Nikolai Nekai, who had one RBI single each in the second and third, and



See **DEFENDING** on Page 26

Ayuyus survive Knights in varsity game



Kagman High School's Jason Lampkin fakes off the defense of a Mount Carmel School player during the third quarter of their varsity game in the MISO caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School thwarted the hard-fighting Mount Carmel School, 62-56, in the varsity game in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball

League last Friday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus gained their second win in as many games to join MHS in the lead, while the Knights dropped to a 0-2 record, missing a chance for



See **AYUYUS** on Page 26

Padres rally past Braves, 5-2

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Padres pulled off a come-from-behind win over the NSA Braves, 5-2, in the opening game in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

A five-run bottom of the sixth inning saved the defending champions from losing their early rematch against last season's runners-up. The Padres, who edged the Braves in the last year's finale, 2-1, had to make a rally after failing to hit the board in the first five innings.

The defending champion faced a 0-2 deficit after five and a half innings, as shortstop Ray Saralu handed the Braves their second run when he advanced to first off an error, marched into second and third off wild pitches, and was driven home by K.D. Kalen's single at the top of the sixth inning. Haini



The Padres' Lancaster Secharmidal delivers a pitch to the Braves during their game in the Big League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Blas scored the first run for the Braves, courtesy of a sacrifice fly from starting pitcher Frankie Lieto.

Lieto shut out the Padres in the first five innings, as he recorded 11 strikeouts and allowed only three hits before leaving the mound in favor of Brandon Lieto.

With Frankie Lieto out, the Padres began hitting their targets and advancing to bases to steal the win from the Braves. Malcolm Aaron led off for the Padres and was hit by pitch, while left fielder Josiah Delos Reyes put the team on the board, as he singled and made it all the home off the Braves' errors. Another Braves miscue at second base brought relief pitcher and fifth batter A.J. Lizama home and evened out the match, 2-2.

Then the defending champions grabbed the lead, as right fielder T.J. Sablan blasted a single and drove home Ste-

See **PADRES** on Page 26